

Get ready to party in Oakland!
East Bay Pride gears up for 5th annual
festival, global summit & much more.
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Day of solidarity
Rallies held for 'Cairo 52,'
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The lifestyle artist
Painter, photographer David
Hockney is celebrated in LA.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

March for Colorado murder victim this Sat.

by Katie Szymanski

Many brutal anti-gay assaults and murders have occurred since the LGBT community rallied against the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, but none have quite duplicated the nationwide outrage necessary for a movement. You can help to change that and honor a young slain hero at a San Francisco march to be held this Saturday, August 25 in the Castro.

Fred Martinez Jr., a 16-year-old Native American called "openly gay" by the national media and "transgender" and "two-spirit" by friends, was found bludgeoned to death near his home in Cortez, Colorado on June 2. Police arrested 18-year-old Shaun Murphy in New Mexico who allegedly bragged to friends that he had "beat up a fag." A new twist in the case came after it was revealed in the August 28 edition of the *Advocate* magazine that Murphy's mother, Angel Tacoronte, acknowledged that she herself is a lesbian. Tacoronte told the magazine that she taught tolerance in her home and that she supports her son.

Martinez's mother Pauline Mitchell, who has since been outspoken against senseless hate violence, will be flying into San Francisco for the march thanks to fundraising by organizers. Also expected is Gabby Clayton, mother of hate crime victim Bill Clayton, from the Parents, Friends, and Families of Lesbians and Gays chapter in Olympia, Washington.

Saturday's march will begin at the
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Murder suspect Adam Ezerski nabbed in Reno SF victim recalls early morning terror

by Ed Walsh

When Kevin Begoon woke up to a tap on his head early Tuesday morning, August 14, he thought he was still dreaming.

He said he realized later that the tap was a 20-pound plaster statue being smashed over his right eye by a young man named Adam Ezerski whom he had met three days earlier. As he was jolted awake and began to open his eyes, he said Ezerski started to choke him.

After alerting the gay community last week and launching a manhunt, the FBI and police arrested Ezerski and another man, Troy Young, last Friday, August 17 at a hotel-casino in Reno, Nevada.

This week, Begoon, 43, recalled his initial reaction was disbelief that Ezerski was trying to hurt him.

"So many things rolled into my mind at that time," Begoon told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Is this person trying to have sex with me? Is this a dream?"

"As the choking was becoming more intense, I was becoming more aware. He had



Adam Ezerski

both hands around me. His thumbs were below my Adam's apple. He had them all the way through. At this point, my air supply was totally cut off. I looked up at him and it was just like looking at this crazed person, a wild animal. It looked like every muscle in his face and in his body was being used. I was trying to tell him I couldn't breathe and I couldn't even talk loud enough for anyone to hear. I thought I was just going to black out.

"I pulled his hands back and spread them apart. At that time, he thrust his body down on me. I remember I looked up and that was the first fear that really hit me. And I looked up and said 'What are you doing? What are you doing? Do you know what you're doing?'"

"At that moment, I felt his whole body go limp. His whole body just went limp on top of me. He said 'Oh my God, oh my God, I don't know what I'm doing, I don't know what I'm doing, so sorry. I woke up, I flipped out and I don't know what happened and I'm so sorry.'"

"He jumped off of the bed. He was in his clothes. He put his shoes on. I jumped off the bed behind him. I reached up thinking I was sweating and I wiped the sweat off my head and my hand was covered with blood and I said 'Oh my God, I'm bleeding' and at that time he said 'I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I'm out of here, I'm out of here.' And he ran out and shut the door behind him."

Begoon would later learn that Ezerski was



Kevin Begoon

the 19-year-old man police believe to be a serial killer who preyed on gay men. Authorities suspect him in the murders of two men in South Florida. They say he allegedly bludgeoned to death Irving Sicherer, 76, on July 25. The following day he allegedly strangled Anthony Martilotto, 39, before stealing his rented red 2001 Ford Mustang.

This week, police appeared to be backing away from their original suspicions that Ezerski was responsible for the death of Sicherer. In a story published on Tuesday, August 21, *Aventura*, Florida police Lieutenant Skip Washa told the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* newspaper that Ezerski's tattoos don't match the tattoos of the young male suspect Sicherer was seen with on surveillance tape just before he died. Washa said investigators are waiting for the results of a fingerprint examination before they will know definitively whether Ezerski had anything to do with the crime.

Ezerski has a long record of juvenile crime
page 17 ►



Troy Young

Diamond heights Gay Softball World Series shines in Sunnyvale

by Jim Provenzano

San Francisco struck a home run — actually lots of home runs — in sunny Sunnyvale last week. The 25th anniversary North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance World Series brought over 130 teams with 2,700 lesbian and gay softball players, participants, umpires, and their gay-friendly supporters to the Twin Creeks Sports Complex.

Not only was the event sociable and sporty, but historic as well. A quarter century ago, the first large-scale gay sports event, the first softball World Series, broke barriers by bringing together a mere two teams, from San Francisco and New York.

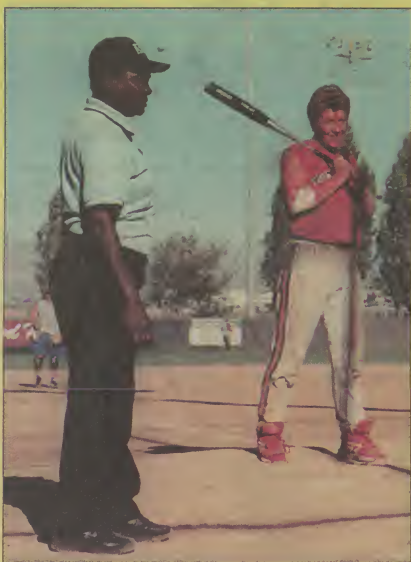
According to the program

background by Marc Gofstein, "the Gay World Championship" was organized by Everett Hedrick and Fred Howe of the San Francisco Community Softball League, and Chuck Dima of the Manhattan Community Athletic Association, who formed the idea of a gay tournament. Longtime league members Mark Brown and Jack "Irene" McGowan began organizing, and when the New York team arrived in the Bay Area, "they were given the royal treatment."

The event was viewed by thousands of San Franciscans on Labor Day weekend in 1977 at Long Field. In the end, Badlands of SF defeated New York's Ramrod, but it was a victory for both sides.

Since then, gay softball gave rise to other organized sports, and

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A participant, right, steps up to the plate at last week's 25th anniversary Gay Softball World Series at Twin Creeks Sports Complex in Sunnyvale, as an umpire looks on.

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All aboard?

Rail trip a 'nightmare' for gay couple

by Dennis Conkin

A recent Amtrak ad campaign in the gay press about its touted commitment to diversity may be nothing more than a lot of hot air, according to a San Francisco gay couple who took the train to Orlando, Florida in July.

In addition to an anti-gay epithet from an Amtrak passenger, the interracial gay couple received more than ugly looks and laggard service from train employees apparently not ready for true diversity — or a contemporary consumer profile for the financially troubled passenger railroad line — and they were openly laughed at and singled out for harassment by Amtrak employees, said Regis Marcelin.

A conductor on the Zephyr line refused to allow the couple to sit together in a lounge car because Amtrak is a "family train," Marcelin, an African American, alleged in an August 9 letter of complaint to Amtrak officials.

Marcelin said he has traveled more than 10,000 miles — and spent thousands of dollars on Amtrak in the last year. He said that he often takes the time to compliment Amtrak personnel and fill out customer satisfaction survey cards but "had to speak up," after the couple's recent experience.

The trip started to become a nightmare on July 30, while the men were traveling on the famed Sunset Limited, heading from Los Angeles to Orlando.

Marcelin said that he and his partner, Joseph Sampson, were sitting in the one of the lounge cars' two-person swivel seat two-chair units. The train's conductor approached the pair, who were sit-

ting with an arm around each other's shoulder.

The conductor was quickly joined by a male train attendant who informed the pair that he "agreed completely" with his boss, but that was later disputed by another male attendant who told the couple that they had behaved like "perfect gentlemen," during the long train trip.

"We complied but said that we would follow up later," Marcelin said. "We noticed that other couples, all straight and all white, were allowed to express affection throughout the trip by holding hands, kissing, and putting their arms around each other's shoulders."

As the San Francisco couple made their way across country, they experienced a delay in being seated for dinner in the dining car, and received a long and silent stare from their waiter, who delayed serving them for a 15-minute period, even though there were only seven other passengers in the car.

In another dining car incident, Marcelin said that he and Sampson became the object of ridicule by a group of male waiters who had formed a kind of huddle and were pointing their fingers at the pair and openly laughing at them.

One waiter allegedly remarked that he had been taking a snapshot for another couple in the dining car with their camera — and exclaimed to Marcelin and Sampson that they had inadvertently been included in the snapshot.

"Wait till they see that picture," the waiter said, according to Marcelin.

In another dining car incident aboard the Zephyr, a steward had been regularly seating single passengers and parties of two together

er at tables in order to accommodate all passengers who wished to eat, but, Marcelin said, the steward never sat any passengers at the couple's table.

In yet another incident on the same journey, Margolis said the couple had their tickets checked by a female boarding agent, but were called back to have their tickets again scrutinized by the agent, who then called another agent to have a look, but who passed all other passengers through with one cursory look at their travel documents.

Amtrak has a customer satisfaction guarantee — and will provide travel vouchers for customers who have legitimate beefs about service on the rail line or other complaints that can't be addressed by a conductor.

"But what good would travel vouchers do if we could not enjoy them because of hostility toward gay and non-white passengers?" Marcelin told Amtrak officials in a letter of complaint.

He said that he made an online inquiry about the experience on Amtrak's Web site and said that a customer relations representative was "unable to provide any information," about the passenger line's diversity policies.

The gay couple have complained to federal legislators as well as U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta.

Amtrak spokesman Kevin Johnson told the *Bay Area Reporter* that there are always two sides to a story and that Amtrak took its diversity and non-discrimination policies "very seriously." Johnson said that Amtrak would respond to Marcelin's allegations after officials looked into his specific claims. ▼

Sisters offer college scholarships

by Katie Szymanski

Calling all those activists in training: need a little loot to boost your cause? The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence have announced the launching of their new "Social and Economic Justice Scholarship Fund," available to college students who pledge to use their education to promote these principles of equality in the work that they do. Designed to help develop the next crop of leaders, the scholarship fund will give \$500 grants on the basis of

need, community involvement, and future plans.

"The success of our country is often measured by the profits of our corporations," said Sister Betty Does, chair nun of the scholarship fund. "However, other measurements tell a different story: one in four children in California live below the poverty line, our prison population is increasing by 10 percent annually and 60 percent of new prisoners are people of color. In fact, three-quarters of African American men living in urban areas will be arrested an jailed be-

fore they reach the age of 36. Worldwide, half the population lives on less than \$2 per day. The goal of this scholarship fund is to fund education for a new generation of leaders whose vision extends beyond the borders of corporate economic success to a future of true economic and social justice."

Grants are open to all students in the United States, regardless of their school, gender, age, social background, or sexual orientation. Applications are due on Monday, August 27 and are available online at www.thesisters.org. ▼

Sex worker clinic party Saturday

by Liz Highleyman

This Saturday, August 25, the St. James Infirmary, a multi-service clinic for sex workers, will hold its first "Rock n' Blues Barbecue Bash."

The party will bring together several local bands, artists, and surprise special guests to raise funds for the clinic, which is celebrating its second anniversary.

Former San Francisco Board of Supervisors candidate Margo St. James will co-host the event. The clinic was named after St. James in recognition of her many years of work as an advocate for sex workers' rights. Master of ceremonies will be radio personality Billy Vega, and artists will include Lisa Kindred and Friends, Tea Leaf

Green, Cat McLean, and the St. James Infirmary Jam Band.

The party takes place at the Lost City Club in Brisbane, and will start with a no-host barbecue at 5 p.m. Music will run from 6 p.m. until 2 a.m.

The St. James Infirmary opened in the summer of 1999 to provide free, confidential, peer-based care and services to sex workers. Started by COYOTE and the Exotic Dancers Alliance, the clinic is a partnership with the city's Department of Public Health.

According to St. James, Saturday's party will be "a celebration of our real partnership with San Francisco's health department, certainly a first in the nation, if not the world."

The clinic, which has drop-in

hours Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays from 4-7 p.m. at the City Clinic, 356 Seventh Street, welcomes women, men, and transgendered people who work in any aspect of the sex industry. Services include primary medical care, acupuncture, massage therapy, mental health referrals, substance abuse counseling, peer support, and HIV and sexually transmitted disease counseling and testing. ▼

Saturday's event takes place at the Lost City Club, 23 Visitacion Avenue, Brisbane (southern end of Bayshore Boulevard). Tickets \$20 in advance (TicketWeb) or \$25 at the door. Call (415) 669-7837 for more information.

Ezerski talks to B.A.R.

by Ed Walsh
© Bay Area Reporter

In his first print interview, Adam Ezerski told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he's the real victim. The 19-year-old murder suspect spoke with the B.A.R. by telephone from a Reno jail on Tuesday night, August 21, to tell his side of the story.

"I'm not what they've been thinking I am," said Ezerski. "I'm not a homicidal murderer like they make me out to be."

Ezerski said he had absolutely nothing to do with the murder of 76-year-old Irving Sicherer of Aventura, Florida. He said he was confident the physical evidence combined with his alibi would confirm his innocence.

At the beginning of the interview, he said he had a connection with the incident in which Anthony Martilotto, 39, was found strangled to death in his Fort Lauderdale hotel room but declined to elaborate. Later, he said he fought with Martilotto but was strictly acting in self-defense.

"At the time I was in fear of my own life," said Ezerski. "I actually did try to get away. I was unsuccessful. I was in a locked room."

"I'm being raped," he added. "What options do I have other than to defend myself?"

Ezerski said that although Martilotto wasn't armed, he believed that if he didn't fight back he would be killed.

Ezerski said he didn't want to discuss the incident with Martilotto in detail but said that he regrets ever associating with him.

As for the alleged incident between him and San Franciscan Kevin Begoon, Ezerski said Begoon's injuries were the result of a fight they had after Begoon refused to pay him for sex at the time of their second encounter.

"I was a prostitute, trying to make money," said Ezerski. "And not getting paid for my services. And when Mr. Begoon did not want to pay for my services, a fight ensued both on mine and his part."

Ezerski said contrary to what his brother told a *San Jose Mercury News* reporter, he is not homophobic and not heterosexual. He said his brother learned of his true sexual orientation this week.

"Until yesterday evening he did not know I was gay. Yes, I am openly gay. I'm bisexual."

Ezerski said he led his brother to believe he was homophobic so he wouldn't suspect that he is gay. When asked about his brother's charge that he once threatened a gay acquaintance with a gun, Ezerski said it was "a show," staged with a gay friend to prove to his family he wasn't gay.

Ezerski said he drove Martilotto's rented Mustang and never made any attempt to change the license plates because he wanted to be caught.

The 19-year-old said he was in San Francisco for more than two weeks, longer than authorities suspected. He said he thought San Francisco was the best place for him to go.

"San Francisco is a gay place, there are gay men there and I figured it would be easier for me to blend in. I didn't come to San Francisco for the reason that the news is saying. I heard on the news they were saying that I was stalking the hills of San Francisco."

Ezerski said he came close to being caught just once while he was in San Francisco.

"I was actually sleeping in a park in the Golden Gate Bridge area and I was woken up by two park rangers and they ran the registration of my car and my driver's license. That was maybe a week ago. They looked at the driver's license, they looked at the rental agreement Mr. Martilotto had. I gave it to them. At the time I was thinking, OK, it's all over, good, but then they said, 'All right, go ahead, go on your way.'"

Ezerski said he met Troy Young, 37, on the streets of the Tenderloin on Tuesday, August 14, the same day Begoon alleges Ezerski attacked him. He said they became fast friends and that Young knew who he was and that he was

running from the law. Ezerski said that Young agreed to help him because Young was convinced of his innocence.

The pair stayed in a motel off Lombard Street, Ezerski said. He dyed his hair blond and decided it was time to get out of town after he saw his picture plastered all over TV news last Thursday morning, August 16.

"I saw my picture [on TV] and it said I tried to kill two people and attempted to kill a third," said Ezerski. "At that time I pretty much lost it."

"I got on the Internet, and looked into the things they were saying about me, I'm surprised about how big this thing has gotten."

Ezerski said after he dyed his hair he went to meet Young at his Tenderloin hotel where he had a close encounter with a couple of FBI agents.

"I knew they were FBI agents," said Ezerski. "They were at Troy's apartment and I walked right by them. They looked right at me and I smiled at them."

Ezerski said the pair left the Mustang parked on the street and headed toward Reno in a U-Haul truck that was rented by one of Young's friends.

Ezerski said they had no idea that Reno was holding its annual gay pride celebration that weekend. He said he just wanted to go north. Ezerski said that Young insisted on staying with him the whole time despite his urgings to separate.

"I couldn't get rid of Troy. Troy wouldn't leave me alone. I told him, 'leave, leave, leave.' I'd walk away and Troy would follow me."

Ezerski said they were in Reno by 11 p.m. Thursday.

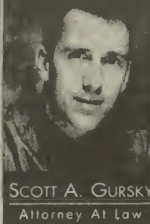
Twenty-one hours later, acting on a tip, FBI agents tracked the pair to their Holiday Inn hotel room registered under Young's name. Ezerski was arrested in the room. Young was taken into custody in the parking lot as he returned from a Dairy Queen with two drinks, tipping investigators off that Ezerski was probably in the room. ▼

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East Bay Pride festival set for September 1

by Cynthia Laird

Mark your calendars and get ready to take a quick trip on BART to downtown Oakland for the fifth annual East Bay Pride festival next Saturday, September 1.

As in previous years, there are several events leading up to the September 1 festival, which will feature well-known entertainers, including headline act Sister Sledge, Pete King, president of

East Bay Pride Inc. told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Beginning this Sunday, August 29 and continuing through the week, East Bay Pride is hosting the International Lesbian and Gay Association's Global Gay Summit, which is expected to attract LGBT activists from 50 countries. Sunday's schedule includes daylong seminars on racism, homophobia in religion, men's health, women's

health, and transgender empowerment. On Monday, August 27, there will be a reception for delegates in Old Oakland.

The summit officially kicks off Tuesday, August 28 at the Elihu Harris state office building and other locations. That night, from 6:30-9:30 p.m., there will be the Gala@City Hall, featuring a performance by the Oakland Gay

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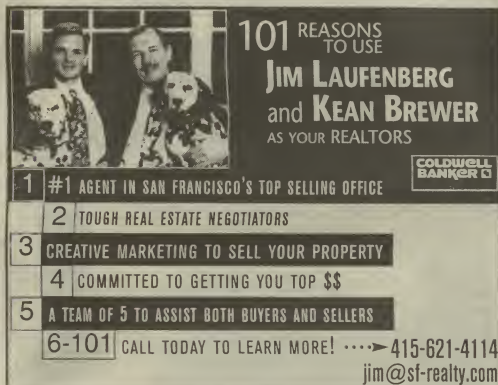
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Almost up in smoke

by Jane Warner

Marijuana cultivating, 2600 block of 22nd Street, August 16, 10:30 a.m.: Two officers on routine patrol observed smoke coming from an apartment complex on the 2600 block of 22nd Street. As they approached the building, the officers saw thick black smoke billowing from the roof top and a wall near the rear door of building engulfed in flames. The officers informed dispatch of the fire and then went inside the building to evacuate any residents.

Once inside, the officers found a man in his apartment unaware of the fire. The officers informed him that he needed to evacuate, but the man was hesitant, telling police that he needed to get his roommate, who was inside a back bedroom. The officers assured him that they would alert his roommate but the man was still reluctant to leave. After hearing the commotion, the man's roommate emerged from the back bedroom and both men were safely escorted out of the building.

A short time later, firefighters responded to the scene and the fire was extinguished without further incident. However, a firefighter informed one of the officers that marijuana was found in the men's apartment. Officers returned to the unit and searched the premises. Over 150 individually potted marijuana plants allegedly were found in the back bedroom, 320 marijuana plants were located in the kitchen, and another 282 pot plants were discovered in the dining room, according to police.

The men, ages 28 and 36, were taken to Mission Station where they were released pending further investigation.

Robbery at laundry

Little Hollywood Laundrette, 1906 Market, August 15, 1:35 p.m.: While doing her laundry, a woman set her purse down on the counter and turned away, leaving it

unattended. A short time later, a man walked over to the counter and allegedly took a wallet from the woman's purse while she had her back turned. An attendant saw the man take the wallet and followed him out the door.

A struggle ensued and the suspect broke away, running westbound on Market. The attendant and another customer gave chase and caught up with the suspect on Dolores Street, where they were able to hold him until police arrived.

The 35-year-old man was taken to Mission Station and booked for strong-arm robbery. The woman's wallet, however, was not found in his possession. Attempts to locate the wallet by retracing the suspect's steps were unsuccessful.

Armed robbery

18th and Diamond, August 15, 5:24 a.m.: A man walking on Diamond near 18th Street was suddenly accosted by a man who ran up to him and pointed a large handgun in the face. The alleged assailant, who held the handgun in his left hand told his victim, "Give me everything you have or I'll blow you away." Fearing for his life, the victim complied. The suspect - de-

scribed as African American, 20-23 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighing 150 pounds, and wearing all dark clothing - took the man's wallet, cell phone, \$500 wrist watch, and his wedding ring. The suspect ran to a nearby parked beige station wagon with wood paneling that was driven by another man. The driver sped westbound on 18th Street toward Market.

Another robbery

15th and Dolores, August 18, 9:10 a.m.: A wife and husband were walking on 15th Street approaching Dolores when an older blue station wagon sped around the corner. The driver slammed on the brakes and double parked in front of them. The driver then jumped out of the vehicle and ran toward them, allegedly striking the man on the back of the head as he grabbed the woman's shoulder. The woman screamed for help and a struggle ensued over the handbag until the strap on the purse broke free.

The suspect - described as African American, 6 feet 2 inches tall, wearing a blue shirt and blue pants - ran back to the station wagon with the stolen purse in hand. Angry, the woman ran after the suspect, yelling for him to stop and grabbed the mirror of the station wagon, screaming for someone to call the police. Fearing for her safety, the woman's husband pulled his angry wife away from the car as the driver began to speed away. Responding police searched the area but were unable to locate the suspect. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

AFSC opposes hate crimes penalty enhancements

by Liz Highleyman

On August 13, the American Friends Service Committee released a report saying that current federal hate crimes legislation is "seriously flawed." The report, entitled "In a Time of Broken Bones: A Call to Dialogue on Hate Violence and the Limitations of Hate Crimes Legislation," opposes penalty enhancements for bias-related crimes.

The AFSC believes that penalty enhancements have historically been applied in an unjust way that disproportionately disadvantages the poor and people of color, especially youth.

"We are concerned that many of these laws go in the wrong direction. They expand the scope of the criminal justice system, rather than strengthen civil and human rights," said report author Katherine Whitlock of the AFSC community relations unit's GLBT program. "We believe the emphasis on penalty enhancements could produce consequences which are directly opposite to what was intended."

Mary Ellen McNish, AFSC general secretary, said that hate crimes legislation "generally fails to address the deeper needs of all those harmed by hate violence: victims,

offenders, and the communities from which they come. ... Legislation should not simply create new mechanisms that further the cycle of violence and hatred."

The AFSC hopes to "initiate a constructive dialogue among all those concerned with the pressing problems of hate violence" in an effort to promote "healing justice," a Quaker concept that involves "holding perpetrators accountable while looking at the underlying social, economic, and spiritual conditions that encourage such acts of violence and hate." The AFSC is an 84-year-old Quaker social justice organization best known for its work with conscientious objectors during wartime.

Progressive opponents of hate crime sentencing enhancements fear that such mechanisms will backfire. "The hate crime genie that got out of the bottle 15 or so years ago has grown into a monster and waylaid a wide swath of liberals and would-be progressives," said Bill Dobbs of Queer Watch, a GLBT group opposed to enhanced hate crime sentences and the death penalty.

David McReynolds, the openly gay Socialist party candidate in the last presidential election, concurred. "I do not think the gay and lesbian community has thought enough about the danger of plac-

ing additional weapons in the hands of prosecutors," he said. "In general, historically, the left and progressive community has been on the side of the defense."

Although the AFSC opposes expanding penalties, it does support data collection on bias-motivated crimes and training for law enforcement personnel in dealing with such offenses.

Conservative groups have already tried to use the notion of hate crimes against queers, for example contending that gay rights advocates are engaging in "hate crimes" against Christians. Activists in other areas are also potentially vulnerable. Earlier this month the *San Jose Mercury News* reported that a man faces charges of vandalism and burglary with a hate crime enhancement for politically motivated destruction of a statue of Christopher Columbus, which he allegedly marked with the slogan "509 years of indigenous genocide."

Dobbs called the AFSC announcement "a first" for a progressive group. "When news outlets cover hate crime legislation, the critics are virtually always from the right," he said. "But there is a rising chorus of voices on the left - including those of GLBT people - who reject such law and order solutions." ▼

E. Bay newspaper union fights for DP benefits

by Matthew S. Bajko

In August 1990, Leroy Aarons, then the executive editor at the *Oakland Tribune*, and Kathy Buckley, then a features editor at the paper, met with five journalists in Aarons's Piedmont home to form the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association. Among the founders' goals was to educate newsroom decision-makers about gay and lesbian issues and promote non-discrimination policies and equal benefits for lesbian and gay journalists.

As the NLGJA celebrates its 10th anniversary of incorporation this month, editorial employees at Alameda News Group Newspapers Inc. are fighting for the same policies and benefits their former colleagues were promoting.

Last Friday, August 17, 200 Guild-represented workers at the *Oakland Tribune* and six other Bay Area papers began working without a contract. Their first contract expired at midnight Thursday after two months of bargaining with management of ANG Newspapers and the chain's owner, Denver-based MediaNews Group.

After seven bargaining sessions, the company has refused to agree, without reservation, to non-discrimination language protecting gays or other groups and has yet to respond to a proposal for domestic partner benefits, according to a union statement released last week.

"This is all about respect. It's about respect for the talented employees who put these newspapers out every day. But it's equally about respect for the communities that we serve," ANG Unit Chair Sean Holstege said. "This company has repeatedly proven that it is out of touch with the values of its employees, its readers, and the region. We aim to remedy that."

Tribune executive editor Nancy Conway declined to discuss the company's negotiations with the union, but did state that management is preparing a response to the union's domestic partner benefits proposal.

"We should leave negotiations to the negotiating table and I would prefer to not comment on negotiating issues," said Conway. "We are just as interested in diversity and good benefits as they are. I don't think that there is that

much disagreement on that."

The lack of discrimination protections is just one of many workplace issues the ANG employees are seeking to address in their second contract. Their first contract took 12 years of organizing, rallies, and protests to obtain. According to the union, ANG has proposed continuing most provisions of the current agreement, but seeks to eliminate overtime after eight hours and remove discipline and discharge from the grievance and arbitration procedure. It also proposed "no wage reductions at this time."

"Where we stand today, it is among the more important issues and we do not have a desire to change our position on it," said Holstege about the union's determination to see ANG adopt policies protecting gay and lesbian employees. "We shouldn't have to be bargaining over it. It is something they should want to do on their own."

Berkeley resident Jennifer Baldwin celebrated her third anniversary of working for ANG Newspapers last Friday. But the openly gay features reporter said the ceremony was bittersweet.

"I love my job, that is why I still work there. But I want to be able to respect the company I work for and I want the company to respect me and the rest of the employees," she said.

Although she has never felt discriminated against at work, Baldwin said she has heard from other reporters who felt they had been harassed for being gay.

Union members point to the recent flap over Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington as a case of how the company does not reflect the community it serves. *Oakland Tribune* reporters were united in their embarrassment over a scathing ANG editorial last week that labeled Worthington as a "coward" and "despicable" for his stance on a visiting group of Japanese Boy Scouts, the union's release stated.

After East Bay Pride organizers severed ties with ANG as their media sponsor because of the editorial, the *Tribune* ran a letter from the editor stating the language "may have been excessive" and "we intended no insult to him or to the gay community."

The union received an unexpected endorsement from the openly gay Worthington in a let-

ter to the editor published in the *Tribune* Sunday. He wrote, "The *Tribune* should provide domestic partner benefits to all employees. This should be done in addition to current benefits, and not be used as an excuse to take away existing benefits."

In an interview with Worthington Monday, he stated he was not aware the union was fighting for domestic partner benefits in its current contract talks when he wrote the letter.

"I see it as a simple matter of justice. And in terms of the lesbian and gay community, we have to be advocating for employees and union causes as part of coalition building," Worthington said.

Local media companies Plan-NetOut; the *San Francisco Chronicle*; Knight Ridder, publisher of the Contra Costa and Hills Newspapers and the *San Jose Mercury News*; Advance Publications, publishers of the weekly *Business Times* in the East Bay, San Jose, and San Francisco; Dow Jones, publisher of the *Daily Sentinel* in Santa Cruz; and the *San Francisco Examiner* and *Independent* all offer domestic partner benefits.

"It has been an 11-year gradual process. We became interested in that subject matter early on because our philosophy was newsrooms hospitable to gay and lesbian staff end up being better informed and provide better coverage around these issues," said Aarons from his home in Sebastopol. "We are proud of what happened. The industry was a little slow to get going, but I think it has done a good job at this point."

The local chapter of NLGJA has offered its help and resources to ANG's union.

"Oftentimes it is a matter of educating the companies involved to show them it helps with staff retention and maintaining a more diverse newsroom," said Robin Stevens, NLGJA's Northern California chapter president. "It sends the message diversity is encouraged and it is a positive environment for gays and lesbians to work."

The Guild at ANG represents editorial employees at the *Oakland Tribune*, the *Tri-Valley Herald*, the *Valley Herald* (San Ramon), the *Argus* (Fremont), the *Daily Review* (Hayward), the *Alameda Times Star*, and the *San Mateo County Times*. Bargaining continues on August 31. ▼



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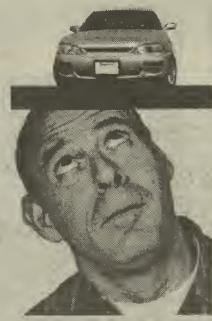
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Good riddance

By the time this issue hits the streets, it is likely that Senator Jesse Helms will have announced that he will not seek reelection and will retire when his term expires in early 2003. For the gay and lesbian community, he can't retire soon enough; and we won't miss the fiery North Carolina Republican's homophobic and AIDSphobic rhetoric one bit. The Human Rights Campaign has noted that Helms is, without a doubt, the most vociferously anti-gay member of Congress.

Some Beltway talking heads have predicted that many in Congress — who call each other "My good friend," whether they mean it or not — will go through what a *Washington Post* columnist called "one of those gooey rituals where all the people who despised Jesse Helms will wipe away a tear and tell us what a statesman he was." We won't be reaching for the Kleenex box; to us, Helms was a symbol of all that is wrong with Republican politics, from race-baiting in some of his Senate campaigns to unwavering opposition to gay rights and calling for the quarantine of those living with AIDS. He has called gays' sexual behavior "incredibly offensive and revolting," and has referred to AIDS prevention programs in schools and federal offices as "thinly veiled attempts to restructure values of American families in favor of the homosexual lifestyle."

Helms's nearly three decades in the Senate were punctuated with vitriol toward the gay community that has been unmatched in modern politics.

Notably, Helms will be remembered by the LGBT community as the single greatest obstacle to the confirmation of San Francisco philanthropist James Hormel when he was named ambassador to Luxembourg by former President Bill Clinton. Helms, who chaired the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee at the time (and held that post until this spring, when Democrats took control over the Senate), refused to let Hormel's nomination come up for a vote. His decision — based on homophobia and unwarranted hysteria from rabid conservatives that he helped propagate — blocked

Hormel's nomination for years until, finally, Clinton took the opportunity to bypass the Senate altogether by using a recess appointment to name Hormel to the diplomatic post.

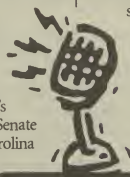
Helms also took on the National Endowment for the Arts and was chiefly responsible for politicizing funding for public art projects. One story as reported this week by MSNBC's Tom Curry recounted Helms's 1990 Senate race when he showed up at a North Carolina school gymnasium to rail against the NEA's use of taxpayer money and to show his constituents a portfolio full of homoerotic nude photos by the late Robert Mapplethorpe.

"Come up here and see what your tax dollars are paying for," Helms invited the crowd. "But no ladies, please! Only men can come up and see this. This will turn your stomach." Curry went on to note the oddness of Helms's action. Mapplethorpe's pho-

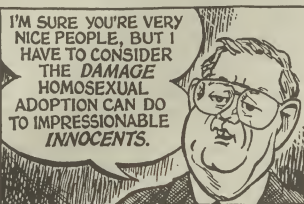
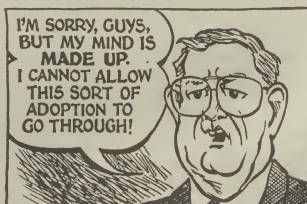
tos were designed to appeal to gay men, and it was "oddly fitting that Helms restricted viewing privileges to the men in the audience," Curry wrote, adding that Helms seemed unaware of the irony.

With the expected retirement of Helms and the previously announced retirement of South Carolina's Strom Thurmond (another archconservative Republican who is also extremely anti-gay), the LGBT community can hope for improvement in the makeup of the Senate. No matter who succeeds Helms — or Thurmond — they will almost certainly not be as vicious and mean-spirited as those two Southern senators are. And if the Democrats can take one or both of those seats, so much the better.

Right now, we're just happy at the thought of Helms riding on his scooter into retirement. As one reader e-mailed us this week, "If true, let the bells ring out and banners fly." ▼



Editorial



Keep the campaign positive

by Debra Walker, Tommi Avicoli Mecca, Esperanza Macias, Robert Haaland, Denise D'Anne, and Janice Winchester

As Milk Club members who support Harry Britt, we are writing to express our dismay and extreme opposition to the negative campaigning from Supervisor Mark Leno to members of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Democratic Club. Last week an article appeared in the *Bay Area Reporter* about a letter that was sent to Milk Club members from former Mayor Art Agnos on Leno's behalf. The letter, and frankly the article too, viciously and untruthfully attacked former Supervisor Harry Britt. We suspect the letter was intended to make us question our support of Britt and to put our support behind Leno; unfortunately for Leno, it did just the opposite. The Milk Club PAC on Saturday voted that we deplore negative campaigns based on lies and innuendo. We challenge Leno's campaign to end this strategy immediately.

Prior to this unethical campaigning, many of us had been encouraged by Supervisor Leno's changing attitudes. His votes had become more progressive and we had begun to develop a more productive and healthy working relationship with Supervisor Leno. Some Milk Club members had expressed a desire to do an early endorsement for Harry Britt without inviting the other candidates. Others believed that both candidates should have the opportunity to persuade us that they are the best candidate for the job. Instead of trying to persuade us that he is a candidate worthy of our support, Leno took the unprincipled position of making several false statements about Harry Britt. Then, in the days before the Milk endorsement meeting last Saturday, an article appeared in the *B.A.R.* about Agnos' letter.

That the article came out before the letter actually arrived to Milk Club members reveals a certain level of orchestration with the *B.A.R.* to malign Harry. These acts should come as no surprise since Supervisor Leno's campaign is being run by Robert Barnes, a political consultant who has no qualms about spreading misinformation in order to win elections. Nor does Barnes have any qualms about selling out our community to downtown interests.

We call on Supervisor Leno to cease and desist in these campaign practices. If he cannot win an election without spreading misinformation, then he should not run. Truth be told, it smacks of desperation and fear.

Since we believe the LGBT community has not been given many significant facts, we would like to introduce you to the real Harry Britt, candidate for the 13th District seat in the state Assembly.

As many already know, Harry enjoyed a long friendship with Harvey Milk. While Milk was supervisor, Harry served as the second president of the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club. He has maintained a long and rich relationship with our club. Under Harry Britt's presidency, "SF Gay" became the political home base for Milk, and grew from less than a dozen to nearly 200 members. When Milk was assassinated, the club was renamed the Harvey Milk Gay Democratic Club in his honor, and Harry Britt was appointed to succeed Milk on the Board of Supervisors.

Harry has been instrumental in developing a progressive legacy that has carried us to the present day. From its earliest days, the Milk Club has been defined by its unwavering commitment to community empowerment, rather than patronage politics. The club formed in Harvey Milk's image has his-

torically held that true power lies in coalition building, community-based social activism, and self-determination. Rather than letting those in power use our community to shore up their status, we organize our communities to meet the powerful on equal standing.

For 13 years on the Board of Supervisors, Harry Britt's votes consistently reflected this same, highly independent philosophy. In his first year, Harry supported vacancy control in spite of pressure by then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein, who appointed him. He opposed big business by leading the drive for divestment from South Africa during apartheid, and restricting downtown expansion with Proposition M in the mid-1980s. To this day, he is considered one of the founders of

rent control in San Francisco. As far back as the early 1980s, he sponsored a feasibility study on bringing the distribution of electricity under municipal control. Always devoted to our community, Harry was the first elected official in the world to secure public funding to fight HIV and pass domestic partnership legislation.

We support Harry Britt because he represents the true community spirit upon which our club was formed. Harry has always pioneered progressive policies for our community and for San Francisco as a whole. He was a leader when there was no blueprint for the LGBT community. He was a visionary when there were few offering our community any consideration whatsoever. Building upon Harvey Milk's legacy, Harry Britt helped changed the way local government viewed the queer community. Like Harry, and Harvey before him, we believe queers deserve the best progressive representation possible. We believe Harry Britt easily fits that bill. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Too rich!

Funny that hateful homeless-phobe Arthur Evans would jump to the defense of Cleve Jones's recent anti-poor rant. Whether serious or satirical, their bigoted bantering is too rich for my taste. How unfortunate when certain people think getting bashed on a bus gives them carte blanche to be cruel to those less fortunate. The sad truth is that with uncaring San Franciscans like Evans, the city's homeless don't need a Third Reich.

Lady Frances Flowers
San Francisco

A logical and discerning opinion

Thanks to Gustavo Serina for his insightful and well-written letter "A possible silver lining," in the August 16 B.A.R. His assessment of the Robert Haaland, Tommi Avicolli Mecca guest opinion in the previous issue was right on. He obviously understands all sides of the TIC issue and has the courage to take a stand.

Cynthia Arnold
San Francisco

Exploiting gay seniors

Exploiting gay seniors has become the newest occupation of the younger gay population. Not content to enjoy the bounty that we fought so hard to achieve in the last century, the younger gay population seems intent on squeezing the last ounce of trust from senior gay men. Through false friendships and patronizing support, these parasites are intent on exploiting the vulnerable men who have survived political warfare, gay fighting, and the HIV virus. Escorts and sex workers who label themselves as such are the honest ones in this discussion; while amateur sex workers, tricks, and new friends are the real ones to be feared and avoided.

Their protestations to the contrary, most of these younger gay men are not interested in either the wisdom or the personal history of their targets. They see us as a resource to be exploited for whatever they can get. They profess to be responsible members of our community with good jobs, community activism, and long-term relationships; all the while scheming to exploit our emotional vulnerability. Having outlived our friends and lovers who died prematurely, we search for new friends and emotional honesty, not knowing that the streets and coffee houses are filled with vultures looking for the next mark to score. We fought and, in some cases died, to procure the lifestyle they enjoy today.

In fact, they, too, will grow old and have to face the issues of loneliness and infirmity that are a part of living longer and growing older. Some of us have had the courage and integrity to continue living in spite of adversity and loss; two qualities this younger generation may never be able to develop.

John Cailleau
San Francisco

Milk Club comments

When Harry Britt and Mark Leno both declared for Assembly, members of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club rejoiced. It seemed an embarrassment of riches to have two candidates from our community running to represent us in Sacramento. How could we lose? Unfortunately, it has become clear how our community could lose. Last Saturday, the Milk Club PAC voted to condemn the distortions and misinformation about Britt being spread by the Leno campaign in this race. This condemnation was issued with sadness that Leno has chosen to divide our community by unfairly attacking one of its political heroes, and with hope that Leno will change the nasty tone of his campaigning.

While our club supports the work that Supervisor Leno has done, particularly in the last year, we also understand that former Supervisor Britt boasts an unparalleled record of accomplishment during his tenure in office. The question for us has been which candidate would bring the type of leadership we need most to Sacramento at this time. That's why our club invited both candidates to seek our early endorsement. We had hoped for a principled discussion of the issues. Instead, Leno's people have engaged in a campaign of innuendo and nasty accusations.

Also of concern is the B.A.R.'s role in this effort to smear Britt with distortion and innuendo. Since Britt entered the race, the B.A.R.'s weekly stories on him have sought only to distort his record. Is owner Bob Ross still carrying on a vendetta for being passed over in favor of Britt for Harvey Milk's seat? The LGBT community deserves a principled reporting on which of these fine candidates would be more effective in Sacramento. At present, the paper acts as a leg of the Leno campaign.

We call on Leno to stop these campaign tactics designed to divide our community.

Jerry Threet, President
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

More on Britt, Leno

So here we are, at the end of the first month of the B.A.R.'s renewed smear campaign against Harry Britt. The latest installment was classic, with its requisite false allegations. Perhaps the B.A.R. can go one step further, and hand its facilities over to the Leno campaign for the year? Apparently, the campaign would know how to make use of them: last week, rival Assembly candidate Mark Leno admitted creating a negative poll question asked to San Francisco residents about Britt, one that happens to be false.

Perhaps the Leno campaign must try to create doubt about Britt's record, as Leno's wavering political record can't match Britt's consistent progressivism. Leno seems to vote according to the drift of the wind. First he's a Willie Brown guy, then he's an independent. I wonder how he would play out in Sacramento, where he would be surrounded not by grassroots organizations but by enormous corporate interests?

Could we count on his continuing as the new, improved Leno? Last year, he endorsed nearly all of the Willie Brown machine candidates for supervisor, candidates who received hundreds of thousands of dollars of downtown soft money. This money was largely filtered through Robert Barnes, Leno campaign strategist.

The year before, Leno stood by silently as Joe O'Donoghue, at the behest of Willie Brown, distributed a virulently homophobic article attacking Supervisor Tom Ammann and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. This article was distributed to hundreds of Catholics prior to the mayoral election.

Leno's and the B.A.R.'s smear currently revolves around the fact that Britt chose not to support Art Agnos for mayor or Dianne Feinstein for governor. Yet as I understand it, Britt's position in these races followed the message of Harvey Milk, who suggested Britt as a possible successor if Milk was assassinated. Harvey Milk insisted that queer people represent themselves politically, rather than hand their power over to straight politicians. While straight political allies can be beneficial to our community, those who claim that they wield power on our behalf are not helpful to us — they are dangerous. Self-empowerment, not patronage politics, are in order if we are to care for ourselves.

Last week Supervisor Leno stated to me — in front of 50 other people — that political campaigning is a business in which all players do things that are less than ingenious. The interesting thing to me is that Leno typically seeks to look like Mr. Clean, and now is orchestrating what looks like the beginning of his campaign's dirty political war on Britt.

Politics may be about conflict, but please focus the debate around substantive issues, and drop the sleaze. If the B.A.R. and the Leno campaign have problems with Britt's legislative positions, I'd love to hear about them. Otherwise, give us all a break.

Seth Ubogay
San Francisco

Folsom artifacts needed

Thank you for your coverage of the Folsom Street Fair exhibit in your June Pride issue. The upcoming retrospective is entitled "The Power of Broken Hearts: The Origins and Evolution of the Folsom Street Fair Celebration and South of Market Community Empowerment in the Age of AIDS."

The exhibit process has unearthed a fascinating and complex story, and we intend to do justice to the origin of the fair as well as to the development and history of SMMILE, the organization that now produces the fair each year. All of this will be explored against the background of a multi-faceted community under siege from two sides: AIDS, and development pressure from downtown.

Myself (co-founder of the fair and curator for this exhibit), Paul Gabriel of the GLBT Historical Society, Jim Mitulski of the San Francisco Public Library's Hormel Center and Foundation, and many volunteers and collaborating organizations, including SMMILE, have teamed up to produce a thoughtful and lively work about the Folsom Street Fair and the South of Market.

The show will run September 15 through November 15 at two sites: the Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center on the third floor of the main San Francisco Public Library, and the gallery space of the GLBT Historical Society. The Hormel site will provide an overview of the 17-year affair, and recapture the emergence of the first Folsom Street Fair from turmoil of redevelopment and community retention of SOMA, as the first devastating wave of the AIDS epidemic crashed down upon the life of an entire community.

The GLBT Historical Society exhibit will continue the saga, spotlighting the formation of SMMILE and the people of "Folsom." The fair itself has grown to an international event (over 300,000 in attendance) and has returned many, many millions of dollars — in earned revenue and charitable donations — to San Francisco since its inception in 1984.

next page ►

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I am dedicating my work with this exhibit to my many friends and collaborators of the early 1980s, men and women, leather and not, of all ethnic backgrounds and social origins, who generously pulled together with Michael Valerio and I to create the Folsom Street Fair. Many, including Michael Valerio, have been taken by the epidemic. Others have been removed by the rapid development of the neighborhood.

This exhibit is more of a starting point than the final word on the subject, we hope. We invite the public to continue this project and deepen it, to do justice to what is now universally recognized as a premier international leather event and a unique and powerful formula for community organization and empowerment. In this vein, we would appreciate if readers could take a look at the list below, and contact exhibit director Paul Gabriel (Phone 415-777 5455; e-mail: paulglhs@yahoo.com) if you are willing to loan any items to the GLBT Historical Society for the duration of the exhibit.

Photographs/Film/Video, Folsom Street Fair and South of Market - 1984-2000. Individuals - Peter Austin, Eric Bernier, Kathleen Connell, Jerry Roberts, David Dysart, Bob Goldfarb, Marga Gomez, Page Hodel, Paul Lester, Marcus Hernandez (Mr. Marcus), "Mama" Sandy Reinhardt, Rita Rockett, Gayle Rubin, Jayne Salinger, Alan Selby, Donna Shrout, Patrick Toner, Jerry Vallaire, Michael Valerio, Gary Virginia, and Danny Williams.

South of Market community, including bars and community spaces, and South of Market community documentation (1980-2001).

Programs: FSF - 1986, 1987, 1988, 1994, 1999, 2000.

Posters: FSF - 1989, 1995, 1996.

T-Shirts: FSF - 1986, 1987, 1989, 1996-2000.

Artifacts from the fair - backdrops, banners, and the like. Photos of performers and fair volunteers. Newspaper clippings about the event. Programs and related advertisements. Films and video clips related to the event.

Thanks to all for helping to "make history."

Kathleen Connell
Co-Founder, Folsom Street Fair

Twisted view of democracy

Tommi Avicoli Mecca and Robert Haaland have a twisted view of democracy: my way or the highway ["Nothing wrong with revisiting issues once rejected by voters," *Guest Opinion*, August 9]. I paid attention in grammar school and high school to learn the basic lessons of how a democracy functions. It is rather simple. While our government executes the will of the majority, it is bound to protect the minority through fundamental rights defined in the Constitution. The courts establish balance to the political excesses of the executive and legislative branches. That wasn't that hard, was it? Apparently both Avicoli Mecca and Haaland were thinking about other things in their youth.

Jake McGoldrick's anti-TIC legislation was not a compromise, not legal, and certainly not gutsy. In a democracy, compromises are fashioned by the contesting parties coming together and negotiating a middle ground. McGoldrick, by several admissions, merely crafted a mean spirited, illegal scheme by which false hope is offered to tenants to someday, somehow buy their apartments. The prospect of that ever happening under the maze of obstructions incorporated into the legislation are as likely as George W. Bush embracing gays in the military. Secondly, the legislation denied constitutional rights to a specific class of San Franciscans in order to placate the special interest politics of paid professional "tenant activists" like Avicoli Mecca and Haaland. Adolf Hitler used similar logic against Jews, gays, and other minorities. Every hostile restriction placed on German Jews from 1933 to 1945 had the result of taking from the oppressed while justifying the act as some greater good for non-Jews.

In American democracy, our rights are absolute. They are not derived at the expense of others. We call this "equal opportunity." This basic philosophy has ultimately prevailed in the face of such poor reasoning as the Dred Scott decision which resulted in *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. It has resulted in Harry Blackmun's *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973. Most recently, the court ruling in the Diane Whipple wrongful death suit made another great stride forward for gays in getting equal protection under the 14th Amendment.

Clearly, the way to deal with the problem of wrongful eviction is to modify, through the political system, the definition of "wrongful eviction." Is this what McGoldrick did? No. There is not a word about eviction in his legislation. Instead, this Alameda landlord supervisor of ours convinced seven of his cronies to do exactly the opposite of what the vast majority of San Franciscans said they wanted: no further restrictions on the ability to buy property in its least expensive form, the TIC. In addition, the "rampant" Ellis evictions claimed as the justification for this unde-

mocratic law actually declined by almost 40 percent in the last year. This alleged problem is in fact solving itself. Economic forces self-correct much faster than any law devised by special interests.

The defeat of Proposition N did not restrict the rights of anyone. More than 149,000 city residents were ignored by eight arrogant supervisors who presumed to know better. With a lawsuit filed last Wednesday, one judge will instruct these eight misguided supes on what basic constitutional rights are all about. We do not live in Afghanistan where the government rules by absolute terror. We live in the world's greatest democracy where all individuals are equal in the eyes of the law. Even the hypocritical Mr. McGoldrick, who gets a housing subsidy from his elderly landlady struggling on a meager Social Security pension while he himself profits from the housing needs of his Alameda tenants, deserves equal protection.

We in the queer community have fought hard to overcome the bias in our laws against same-sex couples. We are confident that someday soon we will be victorious in that struggle. We have a busy future devoted to that ultimate success. In the meantime, we hardly need to be diverted by the special interests behind McGoldrick, Chris Daly and Matt Gonzalez: the paid professional tenant extremists. When these errant supes promote new laws that actually limit the rights of same-sex couples by restricting contracts and inheritance, we loose. When these errant supes promote new laws to limit our privacy and leave us unequal protection under the law, it eradicates years of progress toward GLBT equal rights. San Francisco's gay community should firmly reject the proposition put forth by Avicoli Mecca and Haaland that we must accept a permanent status as rent slaves arbitrarily singled out in the eyes of the law as something less than people entitled to every opportunity to make our dreams come true.

Tom Ramm
San Francisco

Clarification on Lynes

I read with interest and pleasure Rawley Grau's informative article on George Platt Lynes in the *Bay Area Reporter* (August 16). In particular, I was interested in the parenthesis "he did, however, sell a few of these images under a pseudonym to a Swiss gay magazine" since I published a book on that "Swiss gay magazine" (*The Ideal Gay Man: The Story of Der Kreis*, New York: Haworth Press, 1999).

To my knowledge, no contributions to *Der Kreis* were paid for, neither written nor pictorial. So publication there would not have helped his financial situation. And I would say that *Der Kreis* published more than a "few" of his photographs. If I may quote from my book (page 209):

"The first four photographs by Lynes appeared in *Der Kreis* in July 1950, ... There were four more photographs by Lynes in 1950, followed by seven in 1951. One of the last set, in December, was published under the name Roberto Rolf and included a street address in New York. After that, 35 more photographs were published with the name Roberto Rolf." In addition, there were four photographs with only "In Memory of a Great Master of Photography," a phrase that had earlier only been used for Lynes. Altogether, then, 47 photographs by Lynes appeared in *Der Kreis*.

I enjoyed Lynes's photographs while reading my way through *Der Kreis*. Thanks for reminding me of them!

Hubert Kennedy
San Francisco

[Rawley Grau responds: Thank you for clarifying the relationship of George Platt Lynes to *Der Kreis*. I shouldn't have assumed he sold the pictures. Somewhere I read that after submitting a set of photos to *Der Kreis* as Roberto Rolf, he got a note from the editor suggesting that he should try to emulate George Platt Lynes. I'm sorry I wasn't aware of your book when I wrote my column. I'll try to get a hold of it.]

Color consultant needed

Aren't gays supposed to have good taste? Then why is the older portion of the new gay and lesbian community center on Market Street painted such awful colors? Barn red and pseudo-turquoise just don't go together, folks, and they certainly don't enhance the gray beams and glass of the new section.

A color consultant with real credentials is needed, fast! What promised to be a landmark building seems to be on the road to becoming a circus.

J.L. Van Laningham
San Francisco

Send letters to the *Bay Area Reporter*, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Letters must be signed, and include an address and daytime phone number for verification purposes only. Unsigned letters will not be printed. E-mail letters are accepted at BARpaper@aol.com. Please put "letter to the editor" in the subject line, and also include an address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space.

POLITICS

Riordan to announce bid for governor

by Wayne Friday

Former Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan** is reportedly set to announce within a few weeks that he will run for California governor. Riordan, currently on vacation in Europe, has completed his three-week "getting acquainted" tour of the state and is set to enter the Republican March 2002 primary against fellow GOP candidates **William Simon Jr.**, a Los Angeles financier; and **Bill Jones**, the California secretary of state.

Riordan's entry into the GOP gubernatorial sweepstakes will provide an unconventional candidate; the very fact that he is on a monthlong vacation to Ireland is causing some to question the timing as well as his commitment to a campaign for governor. Still, those close to Riordan say that his candidacy is all but a sure thing and that he will make an announcement before the end of September, possibly just after Labor Day.

Winning his party's nomination to run against incumbent Democrat **Gray Davis** might turn out to be as big a problem as taking on Davis in the November 2002 general election, assuming Riordan wins the March primary. Both Jones and Simon are already questioning Riordan's loyalty to the Republican Party. Riordan, himself a millionaire, can supposedly easily match the \$30-plus million that Davis has in the bank. His biggest obstacle comes from within his own party. Though he enjoys good name identification, cross-party voter appeal (having won twice in heavily-Democratic Los Angeles), and personal wealth, Riordan's habit of flip-flopping on issues, including abortion and the death penalty (he's a pro-choice Catholic and is anti-death penalty), puts him at odds with a majority of those in control of the state Republican Party. Many Republicans accuse him of being a "RINO" (Republican in Name Only).

Indeed, as a private citizen and during his tenure as mayor, Riordan often endorsed and made personal financial contributions to Democratic candidates, having donated tens of thousands of dollars to different Democrats over the years, including, coincidentally, Gray Davis. Riordan is also considered close politically and personally to Democratic Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, having supported her heavily the last time she was on the California ballot.

Beyond ideology, the moderate Republican has never run for statewide office and Californians have never elected a mayor of Los Angeles as governor. Many also feel that Riordan's blunt personal style, coupled with his moderate-to-liberal record, will cause him real problems in getting past either Jones or Simon in the March primary. Jones, in particular, seems ready to aggressively question Riordan's GOP credentials and has already called on both Riordan and Simon to debate before next month's Republican state convention. This week, Riordan's

camp declined Jones's invitation to debate, saying that the former mayor hasn't even decided if he will attend the scheduled GOP convention. Simon's team also indicated that their candidate isn't interested in debating right now.

In the event that Riordan does emerge as the GOP nominee for governor after the primary, some conservative Republicans can be expected to sit out the general election against Davis since, in the end, a lot of right-wing Republicans (the core of the GOP in the state) are likely to find the pro-gay, pro-choice Riordan to be unacceptable. One top Republican, looking forward to the state GOP convention in Los Angeles next month, to the *Los Angeles Times* this week that,

"With Dick Riordan as our nominee, Davis, the real Democrat in the contest, will win re-election. He [Riordan] has a large hill to get over to convince Republicans in this state that he's even a true Republican; we just can't have our nominee looking and sounding like another Democrat."



Advisers tell Al Gore to lose beard

Politics and people

Advisers are reportedly telling former Vice President **Al Gore** to get rid of the beard; no bearded candidate has won the presidency since **Rutherford B. Hayes** in 1876 and of the 43 men who have served as president, only nine had any trace of facial hair.

I still think this jerk is political toast, whether or not they ever find missing intern **Chandra Levy**, but loyal supporters of embattled California Congressman **Gary Condit** (D-18th District) are busy telling reporters and old campaign contributors that their man is running for re-election next year. It seems that Condit's congressional pension (about \$20,000 annually) doesn't kick in until 2003 and the guy has little in the way of personal assets and growing legal bills. Condit is set to be interviewed tonight (Thursday, August 23) on national television by ABC News correspondent **Connie Chung**.

True, he hasn't told me personally, but Mayor **Willie Brown** is reportedly very much interested in **John Burton**'s state Senate seat, if and when he ever leaves it,

but then, so is **Carole Migden**.

And now back to the homeless problem. You know, the one so many won't even admit exists. Well, make no mistake, it's here and growing. Those supervisors and others at City Hall might not notice it (always the next election to worry about, you know), but ask the tourist population, those who live here, pay taxes here, and who have to step over the sleeping homeless every day as they go to work. Even in the Castro, stepping over or walking around the passed out homeless on Castro Street has now become the norm and yet our "politically correct" city fathers and mothers keep rolling out the red carpet, encouraging even more homeless people to take over the city. Sure I know the true homeless, those who really need help must be helped, but at what point do the people who work, live, and pay taxes here finally rise up and say "enough."

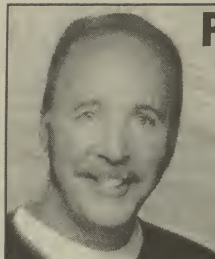
More and more people are telling me that they like what the front page of the *San Francisco Examiner* is saying, with its focus on Market Street, and more than one person has mentioned running *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist **Rob Morse** for mayor. This city should be known as the "City with a Heart," not the "City of the Homeless," and Supervisor **Chris Daly** standing out there (as he was last Saturday) punching a clenched fist into the air, shouting "Power to the people" isn't the answer either. Incidentally, supervisor, that tired old 1960s phrase went out long before you even came in; get a new one, fella.

Gay and lesbian groups were quick to applaud the San Francisco Police and FBI for reacting so quickly – and successfully – in nabbing Florida murder suspect **Adam Ezerski** last week. **Kevin Begoon**, who put the suspect up at his home here for a couple of days only to be viciously attacked by the guy, told me over the weekend that "one thing I want to let people know is how professional and helpful the San Francisco cops were, especially Inspector (**Dominic**) **Celaya** and his partner; those guys were great."

City attorney candidate **Jim Lazarus** was overheard outside a candidates night meeting the other evening yelling at city Treasurer **Susan Leal** for her support of **Dennis Herrera**. Lazarus reportedly told Leal that he was "responsible for her entire career," (something about him convincing then-Mayor **Frank Jordan** to appoint her to her seat on the Board of Supervisors in 1993). Leal, who won the treasurer's race four years ago, is headed for an easy re-election to her job this November.

I don't know **Jerry Threet** very well, but think he's a good guy, so why is all the fuss continuing about him being a Green Party member while serving as president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club? Sure the Greens and their ilk are responsible for **George W. Bush** being where he is, but, so it is. As for **Harvey Milk**, he was once a Goldwater Republican, but when he saw the error of his ways he made it official (can't always have it both ways, Mr. Threet). Maybe the Milk Club should be known as the Harvey Milk LGBT Independent Club.

And how was your week? ▼



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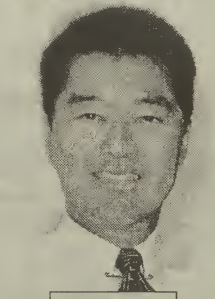
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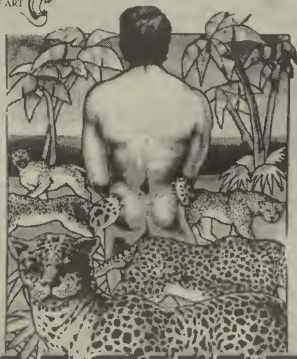
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Cody Republicans

by Dale Carpenter

The effort of gay Republicans to find a place in the GOP has been a hard and long struggle within a hard and even longer struggle for equality. At party conventions and in precinct meetings, at rallies and in board rooms, gay Republicans for two decades have provided the foot soldiers on the most contested front of the gay civil rights movement.

Now gay and gay-supportive Republicans have an elegant manifesto laying out their principles. Although mostly ignored by the gay press, the declaration was noted on the front page of the *Wall Street Journal*, a powerful voice in conservative politics.

The manifesto is known as the Cody Statement and derives its name from the place it was recently drafted and promulgated—Cody, Wyoming. It is signed by

some of the members of the Republican Unity Coalition, a group of both gay and straight individuals created to support the GOP by making the party more receptive to gay Americans.

The RUC is the brainchild of Charles Francis, a personal friend of President Bush.

Joining him in the group are, among others, retired Senator Alan K. Simpson (R-Wyoming); Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona); former Congress-

man Michael Huffington (R-California); former Congresswoman Susan Molinari (R-New York); former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan; AT&T General Counsel Jim Ciconni; and James K. Glassman, a Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a noted conservative think tank.

The Cody Statement is a quintessentially Republican document with, of course, a twist. It begins with words any Republican should find compelling:

"We are Republicans because we believe in limited government, free markets, a strong national defense, and personal responsibility." But it also affirms: "[W]e believe sexual orientation should be a non-issue within the Republican Party" and "we believe everyone should be included in America's proud progression toward full civil equality for all, without regard to sexual orientation."

Are those statements reconcilable? The four named concepts—limited government, free markets, strong national defense, and personal responsibility—are the cornerstones of Republican politics. There is nothing about any of them that is antithetical to equal civil rights for gay women and men. Getting the party finally to acknowledge that fact is the challenge for gay Republicans.

The Cody Statement outlines a refreshing vision of gay equality, and especially of the relationship between the individual and the state. It is a gentle but firm repudiation of traditional civil rights rhetoric and dogma. In the process, the group identifies three common commitments that would make Pat Robertson nod in agreement: freedom, family, and faith.

The group's conception of freedom consists largely in having government get out of the way: "Neither victim nor villain, we seek no special privilege, but we deplore being penalized. Many of us simply want to be left alone. ... We believe a government powerful enough to 'give' all citizens what they think they might want will inevitably be powerful enough to take it all away."

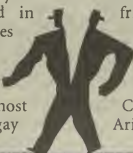
Note the language used. Gays are not "victims" (a jab to the left) but neither are we "villains" (a punch to the right). What the Cody Republicans want from government is neutrality, not special privilege or penalty. The repudiation of "special privilege" itself is a sly appropriation of rhetoric effectively used by religious conservatives to tar gays as seeking "special rights."

In the view of these Republicans, people are individuals not dots lost in a group mosaic. Each person is "unique, multi-dimensional, defying any one label." Although "government can help ensure a good society, it cannot make a great society—only free people, acting in their myriad creative and generous ways, can accomplish that task." This is not a politics for the faint-of-heart, or the left-of-center.

The experience of discrimination seems to lead people toward one of two poles: get government out of our lives to free us or get it into our lives to protect us. The latter choice is a siren's song, especially tempting when you have gained the upper-hand in a legislature.

Yet, as the Cody Statement observes, progress in manipulating government power for one's ends is not inevitable and it is not irreversible. The norms the state enforces are as changeable as culture itself. Yesterday a state declared us criminal; today it protects us from discrimination; tomorrow it may again find us wanting.

The Cody Statement asserts the importance of healthy families in a civilized society, an insight captured by religious conservatives that we have too long ignored. But families include "the



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COMMENTARY

Skirting the fringe

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

figure it is about time I speak about transgender exclusion, but not in the way you may be expecting.

With the non-transgender inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act making its way back into the limelight, and hot on the heels of the non-transgender inclusive Michigan Women's Music Festival, you would probably expect me to touch upon longstanding attempts to keep transgendered people outside of – or at best marginal within – the queer rights movement.

It is fertile ground, with roots going back decades. While great strides forward were made in the 1970s, it was also a time when being visibly transgendered often meant being on the outside of the "gay mainstream." Pride parades moved to exclude "drag" from the events, so as to "clean them up" for the cameras. Lesbian groups forced out transsexual members, and others crafted anti-transgendered books like Janice Raymond's *The Transsexual Empire*.

All of this was not left behind in the 1970s, and transgendered people are still routinely excluded from the rest of the queer community. Many excuses are often given, but the most common is to simply state that including transgendered people might hurt "the cause."

We are simply seen as too different.

I suppose this happens in all movements, and in all communities. There are always people that sit on the margin, that people simply do not want representing them. In the queer rights movement, it has been the leathermen and women, the bisexuals and the polyamorous, and yes, the transgendered and gender variant, who have given others that bad name. According to my mom the ones who really give us a bad name are those blowing "those damn whistles" during Pride. Don't tell her that I had one handy this year. But I digress.

What I really want to talk about is this: when I think about how transgendered people have been pushed to the margins I cannot help but wonder – as the transgender movement gains momentum – who it is that will be pushed aside. Who is just too different for the comfort of transgendered people.

I think the seeds of such a push have already been planted. Even one of the larger organizations born out of the transgender movement has tried to push away transgendered people, and has sought to mainstream itself by sugar-coating its message.

But I want to take a few moments and look at those who are not safe and easy to swallow. Those that some may find a little too "freaky" for their taste. I suspect that many of you have never heard of some of these subcultures, and some may have never been mentioned in this newspaper before. Who knows, some may never be mentioned here again.

I do not feel that all of these are a specific part of the transgendered community – but I think we may learn a little something from each of these, and we may have something to share with these groups based on our experiences.



Christine Smith

There is a whole laundry list of groups who come to mind. People into "forced feminization," such as so-called sissy maids. Born-male

"adult babies" who want to not only dress and act as wee ones, but little girls at that. There are even "furies" who have a desire to appear as another species. When they call themselves "bears," they really do mean bears. And yes, some of them

transcend their species and their gender.

There are others that lie beyond my own comfort zone, such as modern-day eunuchs who opt to have their gonads removed or, in the case of "smoothies," all of their visible genitalia. Beyond them lie other body dysmorphics, who feel that having some other extremity removed will bring them happiness.

Like I said, I don't think all of the above fit neatly under the transgendered umbrella, nor do I think that many – if not most – would want to be there. Nor do I think that all of their issues may fit neatly within the struggle for transgender rights.

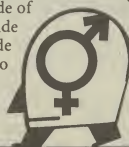
Am I ready to fight for someone's right to wear a fur suit or a crinoline skirt and apron to their 9-to-5 Financial District job? Not

particularly: I do think there is something to be said for appropriate, professional attire for most jobs. Would I find it wrong, and speak out against someone being attacked on the street for such? You bet. What of the body dysmorphic? Maybe one day they might want to fight for medical procedures in the clinical setting, rather than relying on back-room "cutters." The struggles that transsexuals had to go through to get proper care could certainly be called upon, and we could be strong allies.

I'm not trying to say that it's wrong if one wishes to seek some level of "normalcy" that makes them happy as a person. One should strive for what makes them happy. What I am saying is that there are others out there who shouldn't be avoided and pushed away simply because they are too different for us to feel comfortable.

If I as a transgendered person cannot try to broaden my own horizons, and look for what else might be out there – that I may otherwise wish to deny – then how can I truly expect my siblings in the queer rights movement to do the same?

Besides, to many outside the larger community, we are all too different for comfort. Perhaps it's best for us all if we stand together. ▼



Transmissions

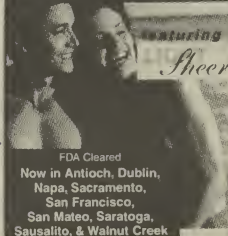
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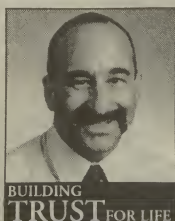
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Demonstrators in Washington, D.C. protest the trial of 52 Egyptian men. Protests also took place in other cities.

Hundreds protest trial of 52 Egyptian men

by Bob Roehr

Demonstrators protested the trial of 52 Egyptian men in Cairo accused of homosexuality in a series of rallies around the world on August 15. The men were arrested in a May 11 raid on the Queen Boat, a floating discotheque in Cairo with a reputation as a gathering place for gay men.

In Washington, D.C., about a hundred people gathered in the evening outside of the Egyptian Embassy cultural office just off Dupont Circle. It was part of an international day of solidarity and mourning organized by Al-Fatiha, an international organization of Muslims who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or questioning.

"Every day gays are tortured, killed, imprisoned" by the Egyptian and other Muslim governments, Al-Fatiha founder M. Faisal Alam told the crowd. They chanted for human rights in Egypt and to "Free the Cairo 52."

About 80 people rallied outside the Egyptian consulate in New York, said Scott Long, program director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. Other demonstrations took place in Atlanta and San Francisco and overseas in Manila, London, Stockholm, Antwerp, and Bucharest.

There are reports that those arrested in Cairo were ill-treated and even tortured by the police while in jail. Homosexuality is not explicitly illegal under Egyptian law and the men are being prosecuted under charges ranging from "obscene behavior" to "contempt for religion."

Long sees the prosecution as an attempt by the government to "shore up its right flank" among the conservative Egyptian public. The state-controlled media has played up, even fabricated lurid aspects of the prosecution. Some of the reports have linked the detainees to "Satanism" and Judaism.

The men are being prosecuted under an emergency law passed in 1981 after the assassination of President Anwar el-Sadat, where there is no appeal of the verdict. This law has been used to prosecute the Islamic Brotherhood and other religious fundamentalist opposition groups.

In a conversation following the demonstration, Alam said they are realistic about what they hope to accomplish. The Egyptian government is "probably not going to release the men. But we want to send a message that there are members of the community who identify as gay Muslims, as gay

Arabs, who are watching what their governments are doing. We can no longer stay silent."

He said they considered calling for a boycott of Egypt but after discussion, Al-Fatiha agreed with IGLHRC and Amnesty International that such an action would be interpreted as a form of Western imperialism trying to impose its values on the Arab world.

Alam acknowledged that the Egyptian government has long "cracked down" on fundamentalist Muslim groups and now "those same tactics are being used against the gay community. They see a rising community that is beginning to ask for its rights, and would be a threat to the Egyptian government."

Representatives Tom Lantos (D-California) and Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) sent a letter to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak expressing their concern for this violation of human rights. Alam said, "That sends the message that they are not going to stand back and watch oppression happen."

The congressmen's concern could affect U.S. economic and military aid to Egypt. That nation is second only to Israel in the

amount of assistance given by the U.S. IGLHRC's Long called it "basically a client state of the U.S., so the letter will at least be listened to."

Long hopes that international pressure will "embarrass them into dropping the charges" once the Egyptian government has milked the media coverage for domestic purposes. He fears that the legal proceedings will be drawn out, with the hope that "international attention will just go away." That is why it is important to keep the pressure on, he added.

The organizations are asking people to write the Egyptian Embassy expressing their concern over this violation of human rights, and over the facts that the 52 men are being prosecuted because of their alleged sexual orientation and in violation of international legal standards. ▼

Letters of protest should be directed to Ambassador M. Nabil Fahmy, Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, 3521 International Court, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008-2023, or faxed to (202) 244-4319.

So. Dakota highway solution: Keep cleaning, anonymously

by Katie Szymanski

A gay group's sign will temporarily be posted in South Dakota as part of that state's adopt-a-highway program, Governor Bill Janklow announced last Friday, August 17. Janklow, seeking to avoid a lawsuit after the state's Department of Transportation refused the group's participation, said he would reluctantly put up the sign until all signs could be taken down and replaced with generic messages crediting "concerned citizens" with sponsoring a stretch of road.

The adopt-a-highway program, popular in many states, currently allows groups or individuals to sponsor highway cleanup in exchange for a sign bearing their name.

"I don't think government should be used to offend people," Janklow told reporters of his decision to disallow specific groups from recognition for cleaning up highways. Janklow became offended only when the Sioux Empire Gay and Lesbian Coalition applied for participation. Other

groups, some offensive to gays such as the Boy Scouts, had long been a part of the program.

Earlier this month, Janklow had indicated he may cancel the adopt-a-highway program altogether, rather than fight a legal battle threatened by the American Civil Liberties Union.

"It's sad we live in a society where everybody is looking for a lawsuit, everybody is trying to earn legal fees," Janklow told the *Argus Leader* on August 3. "I hate to kill a program because some people want to show off a lot of things. It's got nothing to do with my personal feelings about anybody's lifestyle. I just don't think these things are worth having lawsuits over."

For the short term, however, Janklow plans on keeping the program without giving the recognition to those who clean the highways. He said he hopes to have all signs removed and replaced by the end of the year. ▼

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Maryland's gay rights in limbo

by Bob Roehr

Maryland's recently passed gay rights law, the Anti-discrimination Act of 2001, probably will not go into effect on October 1. The anti-gay group TakeBackMaryland.org gathered a sufficient number of valid signatures to hold it in abeyance pending a referendum by the public in November 2002.

The state board of elections certified the petition on July 19. However, the margin of signatures was only 1,411 more than what state law requires.

Gay rights advocates countered with their own legal action on July 30, charging both misrepresentation of the petition on the part of some who circulated it, and improper certification of petitions by county elections officials. State officials relied upon county registrars to check petitions against the voter rolls.

"We found enough signatures that should not have been validated, almost 5,000, that we thought we should challenge the petition," said Charles J. Butler, an attorney with the prestigious Washington, D.C., law firm of Covington & Burling. The firm is donating its services on a pro bono basis. Butler also represented the mother of Barry Winchell, the gay soldier who was murdered as he slept at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in 1999.

"There are problems with the [petition] circulator, with the witness affidavit, so that every signature on that page [of up to 10 signatures] should be knocked out," Butler said. There also are problems with individual signatures.

"What they've done is corrupt the referendum process by lying," added Della Post, one of the plaintiffs in the suit. She maintains that the TakeBack petition circulators often misrepresented what the gay rights law entails. They frequently said it would lead to gay marriage and teaching gay sex in schools.

A Mason-Dixon Poll, released July 24, showed 50 percent of Marylanders claiming that they would vote to uphold the law, with 17 percent undecided and the remainder opposed. Shannon Avery, with the Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Baltimore, said the poll confirms the basic fairness of people in her state.

The Baltimore City Council unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the Anti-discrimination Act. Similar protection has been on the books in that city since 1989. About half of the state's population already is covered by similar local ordinances.

TakeBack antics

"If they're filing this lawsuit, they obviously must be worried about this going to referendum," said Tres Kerns, co-founder of TakeBackMaryland.org.

Kerns upped the ante by writing to U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, leveling sensationalist charges that the governor and other elected officials who support gay rights are enforcing the law "selectively and politically in violation of my civil rights." He sought Ashcroft's "immediate intervention."

The missive said, "Members of my organization experienced terrorist threats and attacks. I received a death threat at home, hate mail, a hit-and-run car assault, fraudulent letters sent out under my name and first amendment rights violations."

Kerns asserted in his letter that the petition "signors' rights of privacy and their civil rights are being violated" because a pro-gay group copied and reviewed the petitions in a state office building in order to file their legal challenge.

In an August 1 press release, he called the suit filed by Butler "a carefully choreographed dance between the homosexuals and their allies in state government."

Butler scoffed at the allegations, "I don't think that their rights have been violated in any way, all we did was look at public documents." He completely denied the hyperbolic charges of intimidation.

The Department of Justice has not commented on the request from Kerns. ▼

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For more information on how to enroll, please contact your physician, your local AIDS community-based organization, or the district public health office. If your physician would like to participate in the program, he/she can call 1-800-445-3235 or visit the Gilead Sciences website at www.gilead.com.

GILEAD
SCIENCES

East Bay Pride

◀ page 3

Men's Chorus and a special arrival by horse-drawn carriage of Empress I Jose, founder of the International Court System and the first out American to run for public office in 1961.

Wednesday, August 29 features a lunch time concert with Afro-Caribbean band Veronica Black from noon to 1:30 p.m. That evening, East Bay Pride organizers will preside over the "lighting of the lake" at Lake Merritt. This event started a couple of years ago; the light bulbs around the lake are switched to pink. The event takes place near the municipal bandstand at Lakeside Park.

Events on Thursday and Friday, August 30 and 31, include evenings of queer culture and arts featuring seven different performance venues for theater, dance, poetry, blues, jazz, comedy, cabaret, and visual art. The events take place from 9 p.m. until midnight at Preservation Park in downtown Oakland.

Next Saturday's Pride festival takes place in Frank H. Ogawa Plaza near City Hall at 14th Street and Broadway from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. King said that admission to the festival is \$5 per person, the same as last year. He added that there will be three stages — a women's stage, an urban stage, and an alternative stage. Scheduled performers include Martha Wash, international DJs and hip-hop artists, rock bands Pansy Division, Tribe 8, ing, and Thunderpussy, and an incredible lineup of women's music with Ferron, Orchestra d'Soul, and comedienne Karen Williams.



Martha Wash will perform at East Bay Pride next Saturday, Sept. 1.

"Sister Sledge is coming from Philly," King told the B.A.R. last week, "and doing a reunion." The sisters are expected to belt out their hit "We Are Family."

Also on Saturday, at 1:30 p.m., there will be a "Day of Inclusiveness" march and rally that will go from the state building site of the ILGA summit to City Hall, where the Pride festival takes place. The march will go right through crowds attending the festival taking place at City Hall and will be followed by a ceremony from the main stage, organizers said.

Other events going on during the week include the Diversity 2001 Youth conference from August 24-26. The three-day gathering of youth and youth organizers is sponsored by the Sexual Minority Alliance of Alameda County

and the National Youth Advocacy Coalition. For information, contact Paulette Hogan at (510) 834-9578 or diversity2001oak@yahoo.com.

Another first for East Bay Pride is a Bay Area police conference on LGBT issues set for Wednesday, August 29. The daylong training is to help educate local law enforcement agencies.

A daylong conference for LGBT elders is set for Friday, August 30 at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland. For more information, contact John Ellefson at (510) 583-9638. ▼

For more information on East Bay Pride festivities, call (510) 663-3980 or go to www.eastbaypride.org.

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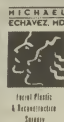
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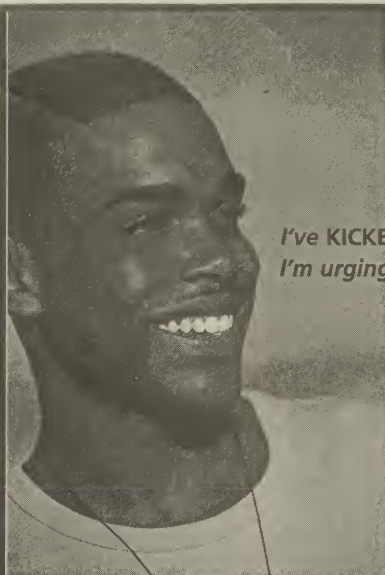
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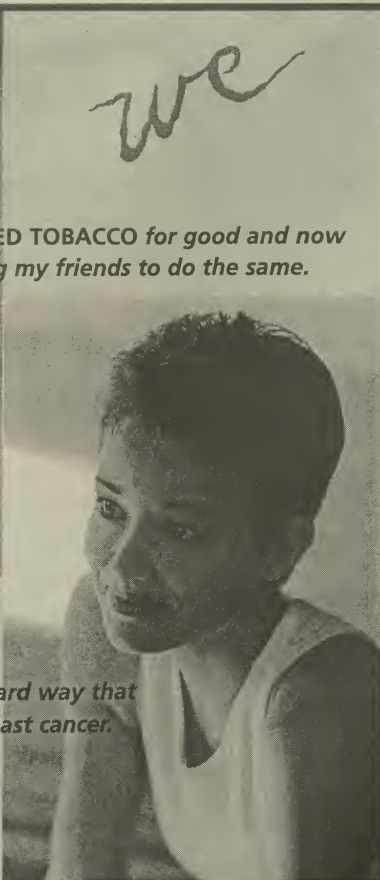
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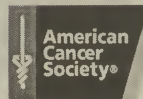
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Criminologist offers theories on Ezerski

by Ed Walsh

Why? That question may always haunt Adam Ezerski's surviving victim, Kevin Begoon.

If robbery was his motive, he could have easily taken a number of valuables from Begoon while he slept. Why did he target gay men? And why was he so apparently overcome with rage toward Begoon, someone who went out of his way to be kind to him?

San Francisco State University criminologist Mike Rustigan has studied a number of cases involving serial killers, including that of Gianni Versace killer Andrew Cunanan, a case that has been compared with Ezerski's. Police say — like Cunanan — they believe Ezerski is gay. Rustigan suggested Ezerski may have underlying rage toward gay men because of his inability to cope with his own gay feelings.

According to an interview with the *San Jose Mercury News*, Ezerski's

half-brother, Aaron Smith, said Ezerski isn't gay and is homophobic. Smith said he "chased girls" and was engaged to his girlfriend of two years.

Although he couldn't imagine Ezerski killing anyone, Smith, 18, said that his older brother had a violent side. He recalled an incident in which Ezerski threatened a gay acquaintance with a gun.

Ezerski, 19, moved from Ohio to Florida in 1995, while he was in junior high. Smith said that Ezerski was constantly in trouble with the law since the move.

In sharp contrast to Smith's account, Begoon said Ezerski was very open about being gay and said that Ezerski told him that Smith was very homophobic and hostile toward gays.

Begoon said that eerily, Ezerski described Smith the same way Smith described Ezerski. He said Ezerski told him that besides being homophobic, Smith was constantly in trouble since he moved to Florida when he was 13.

Rustigan said that if Ezerski's brother's account is accurate, it

could explain a lot of Ezerski's motivation.

"That might suggest that he has a lot of rage toward himself, that is, detesting his own feelings of weakness, inadequacy," said Rustigan. "There can be a lot of guilt feelings about being gay. What we're seeing here, perhaps, especially because these murders are excessive, brutal, that there is probably a great deal of rage, not only toward his victims but toward himself, self-hatred, self-loathing. Probably the robberies were incidental."

While he was wanted for the two murders in Florida, Ezerski continued to use his real name and made no attempt to disguise or change the license plates on the red Mustang he allegedly stole from one of his victims. Rustigan said that's not uncommon for criminals like Ezerski.

"Cunanan was just as sloppy," said Rustigan. "Cunanan drove a pickup truck of one of his victims from New Jersey to Florida. In Miami, Cunanan sold stolen objects from one of his victims from

Chicago and even used his own name at the pawn shop."

Rustigan said it's possible Ezerski could have on some level wanted police to catch him.

"Sometimes that's the case," said Rustigan. "But rarely do serial killers like to be caught. They want to just continue this. They're enjoying this. They like the publicity. They like the chase. They have the attitude, 'Catch me if you can.' [Ezerski] doesn't seem to be like a full-blown serial killer. He's not a cunning, shrewd type of killer. I would suspect there's mental illness here and I would suspect that perhaps the rage ferments and is expressed when he's drinking or on drugs. There's probably a lot of pent-up anger and hostility over being gay. And he probably does not like gays very much at all. It's almost like the guy who can only have sex with prostitutes and he becomes bitter and depersonalizes the prostitutes calling them 'sluts' or 'bitches.' We find that very same attitude with serial killers who target gays — 'One less gay, one less

fag.' Their attitude is abject hostility toward gays. How they got that way is a question you would have to learn by going into his background and interviewing him."

Begoon said Ezerski seemed very genuine, charming, and had no hint of hostility toward him or anyone before the attack. Rustigan said it's not uncommon for people like Ezerski to strike without warning.

"Don't be fooled by the charm," he said. "[Alleged Yosemite tourists killer] Carey Stayner is a charming guy. Ted Bundy was a charming guy. Jeffrey Dahmer was quite charming and quiet. He was polite to the police. He lured these guys up to his apartment. There was nothing macho or abrasive about him at all. So in the annals of serial killers, many are charming. Many have this Jeckyl and Hyde personality. Very often the victims don't pick up any hostility."

According to police, Ezerski admitted to killing one of the two men that he's suspected of murdering in Florida, but he said he killed the man to fend off a drunken assault. Rustigan said it's common for alleged murderers like Ezerski to blame the victims. He said it's commonly seen in serial killers who target prostitutes. When confronted, the killers often say that they were being robbed or attacked by the prostitutes, said Rustigan.

"[Ezerski] shows the colors of serial killer," said Rustigan. "He's not just a thrill killer that goes around killing anybody. He's targeting gays." ▼

March

◀ page 1

southwest corner of Dolores Park at 8 p.m. and continue up Church Street to Market Street, then head down Castro Street, eventually ending at Metropolitan Community Church where there will be speakers and a presentation to Martinez's family.

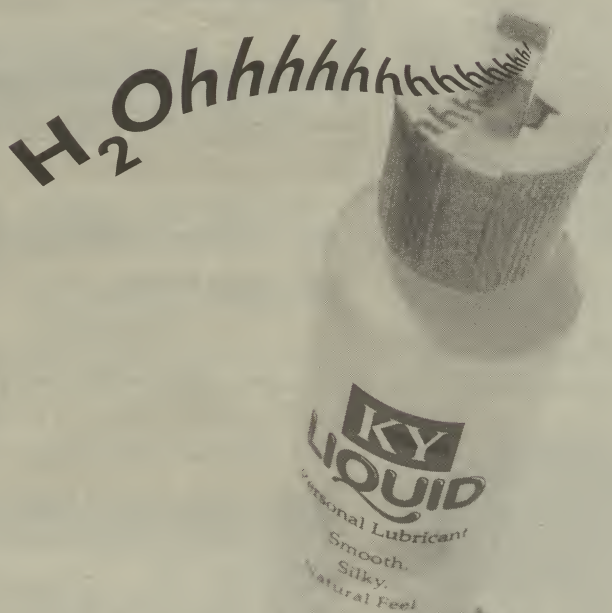
Funds and support have been contributed by Supervisors Tom Ammann, Mark Leno, Gavin Newsom, and Jake McGoldrick; Assemblywoman Carole Migden; and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. But more money is needed to arrange accommodations for Martinez's family, and more support and endorsements are always welcome; call (415) 595-6120 to lend a hand or some cash.

For the march's main organizer Seth Watkins, this memorial effort is both personal and political.

"I grew up in southwest Colorado, and lived with the homophobia in that area, so this crime particularly touched me," said Watkins. "The march in San Francisco will be a great way to show support for his family and his life. There should be more marches like this, to let people know how vicious and inhuman these hate crimes are."

Mitchell, who will be flying into San Francisco with one of her sons, is relatively new to public speaking but has done it with eloquence whenever she talks about the loss of her child.

"Fred did not struggle with who he was, but he was hurt because of the people who had problems with my son expressing himself honestly," she told reporters last month. "Because he was different his life was taken from him, and we will never know the person Fred would have become." ▼



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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.



when he became ill in March 2000. Marc and Dan moved to the country near Kona, Hawaii in January 2001 with hopes of turning Marc's health around.

Marc was born in Racine, Wisconsin, on November 10, 1962. Besides Dan, he is survived and dearly missed by his parents and family in Racine as well as family and numerous friends in the Bay Area.

Richard Allan Schober



Rochester, Minnesota, on May 21, 1952, Richard graduated from the University

eventually working as an airline attendant for Eastern Airlines until Eastern closed down. Marc had a passion for cooking and was pursuing a degree in culinary arts at San Francisco City College

Richard Allan Schober, a loving bear of a guy whose impish smirk always gave away the mischievous kid inside, passed away unexpectedly at his Castro district home on August 10. Born in

of Minnesota with a degree in business and music. He managed the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra until 1986, when he joined Merrill Lynch where he was a vice president.

Richard's constant jokes and upbeat attitude touched many lives, including several older women to whom he became a friend and guardian angel, ensuring their financial well-being for life. Richard was on the Golden Gate Business Association's board for years and was an active fund-raiser for his church, Most Holy Redeemer. In college, Richard, an avid sports fan, was Gophers, the University of Minnesota's mascot. He was also a proud 49ers season ticket holder for more than a decade and his wickedly barbed sense of humor made him the life of the party at home games.

Richard leaves behind a loving partner, Paul Marshall, who made his last year on earth one of the happiest of his life. Also surviving are Richard's parents, Marge and Ernest, of North Carolina; sister Sue, of Duluth, Minnesota; brothers Daniel, of Duluth, Thomas, of El Paso, Texas, James, of Shoreview, Minnesota, and Geoffrey, of Payson, Arizona. A host of friends will miss him too. A memorial service is set for 4 p.m., August 26, at the chapel in the redwood forest in Golden Gate Park's Strybing Arboretum.

"Oofda," Richard. You were one of a kind.

Marc Duane Kirby

Marc Duane Kirby, 38, died peacefully at his new home in Hawaii on Memorial Day after a long battle with AIDS. At his side throughout his illness and at his death was his partner, Dan Chandler. After a stint in the Air Force, Marc came to San Francisco in 1982,

Ezerski

◀ page 1

and at the time of the killings, was on probation for auto theft. Shortly after the murders, Ezerski left Florida for the Bay Area in Martillotto's rented red Ford Mustang. His arrival in California would mark the beginning of the end of his young life of crime.

'Key West massage'

Ezerski was first spotted in San Francisco the week of August 5. Several people reported seeing him in the Castro and Polk Gulch neighborhoods.

Former *San Francisco Sentinel* publisher Bob Golovich told the B.A.R. that Ezerski tried to steal a camera that he left for someone at the Club Rendez-Vous bar on Polk Street that week. Golovich said Ezerski tried to cut the bartender into handing the camera over to him, claiming he was picking it up for Golovich.

Begoon met Ezerski in a café on Polk Street on Saturday, August 11.

"He sat down right next to me and inquired about the price of coffee," Begoon recalled. "He said he was visiting from Key West."

Begoon said Ezerski introduced himself using his real name. The pair discussed the Dayton, Ohio area where both men are from originally. Ezerski said he was 21 and a masseuse. He asked some of Begoon's friends who later joined them at the café if they wanted a "Key West massage," a line that police say Ezerski used to entice his victims.

The pair went out to eat and Ezerski took Begoon up on his suggestion to park his Mustang in a garage on Hemlock Street, an alley just off Polk Street, where it would be safer than on the street.

After Ezerski parked in the garage, the two decided to go back to Begoon's apartment in the Upper Tenderloin area, near St. Francis Hospital, order out for food, and watch movies.

Ironically, Begoon said that before Ezerski came into his home, he repeatedly asked him half-jokingly: "You're not going to rob me or kill me in my sleep, are you?"

Begoon said that he followed all the rules safety advocates advise before he brought Ezerski home, including meeting him first in a public place and introducing him to friends. Begoon said he even saw the man's driver's license. He estimated he spent about 35 hours with Ezerski be-

fore the alleged attack.

Coincidentally, that Saturday night, just before they began to watch rented movies, they briefly watched broadcast television. Fortunately or unfortunately, they didn't watch *America's Most Wanted*. If they had, they would have seen the case against Ezerski profiled on the Fox show, complete with his mug shots and a description of his stolen Mustang.

They did briefly see part of another newsmagazine show, prompting Begoon to ask Ezerski if he liked to watch programs like that. Ezerski said he hated watching those kind of shows since seeing a report several years ago on 60 Minutes about a fellow junior high classmate who murdered and raped a 9-year-old girl in Ohio before hiding her body under a waterbed mattress. Ezerski remarked that the case shocked everyone because his classmate seemed very unlikely to do anything like that.

Begoon recalled another incident in which Ezerski seemed to be frightened by crime. While he walked with Ezerski around the Polk Gulch neighborhood, he cautioned him to be careful in the area and told him about murders that took place in the neighborhood.

"He said, 'You're scaring me. That's more about real San Francisco than I want to know.'"

"I really believe he was scared. I wasn't trying to scare him. I was just trying to warn him," said Begoon.

Watching movies

After watching movies until early Sunday morning, Ezerski slept on a couch in the studio apartment and Begoon slept in his bed. They didn't get up until around 3:45 p.m. Sunday.

Ezerski went to the café where they met for coffee and Begoon said he would meet him there in about 30 minutes after he took a shower. It took Begoon longer than he expected and by the time he got to the café, Ezerski was gone.

He ran into Ezerski again Monday afternoon in the Polk Gulch area and introduced him to the friend he was with. The three went out to a café and later Ezerski and Begoon went out to eat. Begoon said Ezerski seemed quiet all day. The two went back to Begoon's apartment again to watch movies, starting with *Miss Congeniality*.

Begoon earlier told Ezerski that he could spend the night at his apartment again but he was already beginning to regret his decision. He said Ezerski seemed like he wanted to be catered to and wasn't respecting his space by not cleaning up after himself.

"But then I thought, I'm committed to it, just bear it out," said Begoon.

By the third movie, Begoon went to bed, but he told Ezerski it was fine for him to stay up and watch more movies.

Begoon remembered tossing and turning that night while Ezerski continued to watch tapes. He remembers looking at the clock last at 2:57 a.m., before he drifted off to sleep for the last time until he was woken up at 4:45 a.m. by Ezerski allegedly attacking him.

After the attack, Begoon first called his building manager and friend, Patty Melvin. She helped him clean the blood off himself. He called the police and went to the hospital later that day.

Before returning home, he checked his voice mail and had two messages from Ezerski. In the first message, Ezerski asked if they could talk. In the second, Ezerski asked Begoon to meet him in a nearby park at 7 p.m. that evening, Tuesday, August 14.

Begoon told the police about the calls but apparently because of lack of resources, no officers were assigned to stake out the meeting place and the opportunity to catch Ezerski was lost.

Despite having missed the perfect opportunity to nab his attacker, Begoon had high praise for the San Francisco Police and the FBI

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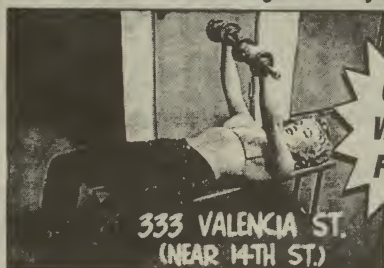
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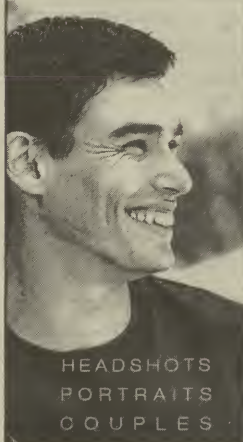
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GIVE A PHOTO SHOOT AS A GIFT

Gay Softball

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paved the way for Gay Games, which started in 1980, also in San Francisco. Other GLBT sports events gained community support, civic assistance, and a wider fan base.

San Francisco's gay softball Commissioner Sara Lewinstein has long been a part of the GLBT athletic community. Between watching a final game amid a cheering crowd, and responding to walkie-talkie queries with other organizers, the widow of Gay Games co-founder Tom Waddell offered her usual vibrant enthusiasm.

"This has been a very successful World Series," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I think we've led the way to the future, being much bigger and better. We have the largest women's participation ever. It's just wonderful. I'm proud of my committee. If there are any champions, it's them."

Lewinstein pointed out the unisex logo used for this year's event. "We're keeping it as our San Francisco logo. There's no gender attached, so it represents both men and women."

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center, the San Francisco LGBT Community Center Project, Bay Positives, Lavender Youth, Recreation, and Information Center and Community United Against Violence.

And although the locale of the event wasn't exactly San Francisco, Twin Creeks' many fields proved perfect for such a large-scale event.

"For the first time ever we have the men and women together," said Lewinstein. "They're able to cheer each other on."

This year's event is bittersweet for Lewinstein, who is stepping down after four years as commissioner. "This is my last day," she said, but offered assurance that her support for GLBT sports will continue.

Seals & Cats

Several heated rivalries got to play out on the dusty diamonds, including one between Open A-Division San Francisco Seals and the Los Angeles Stray Cats, who defeated the Seals 14-11. The Stray Cats have won every championship in their division since 1996.

Rex Sforza was only one of many Seals who made an outstanding effort. Their bright yellow jerseys were among the many colorful uniforms on-field. The Seals came in second; pretty good, considering it's only their first year as a team.

"It was tight to the end, but it's gone really well, beyond our expectations," said Sforza. "We chose some good people from San Fran-

cisco, and formed a great team."

Sforza has played softball for the past seven years in Los Angeles for his now-rivals, the Stray Cats. The newly formed Seals hope to continue their success at Gay Games 2002 in Sydney.

Suds & scraps

Many participants bore the brunt of the South Bay sun. Burnished faces and arms were the look du jour. Many refreshed themselves with the offerings from corporate sponsor Anheuser Busch. Coors beer was also sipped a plenty, proving that the thought of a boycott was the last thing on some athletic minds.

Some players, perhaps aided by a few too many adult beverages, were less than good-natured. After both the Long Beach Blue Dot and Fort Lauderdale Stingers were disqualified for having players with ratings too high for the B Division, some players attacked the

restaurant at the complex, beating inanimate objects with their softball bats. The police arrived Saturday morning to keep things calm.

An ongoing controversy is the admission, or limitation, of the number of straight players on gay teams. Some teams were accused of stacking teams with near-professional-level players.

Of course, while discrimination against gay players is rampant in professional sports, and pretty much the entire world outside of certain Zip codes in San Francisco County, the concept of heterosexual "ringers" was a debated issue.

Not that arguments didn't also occur on some diamonds. A few spats were quickly resolved by the authoritative voice of umpires.

Kathy Ostrowski of Baltimore was just one of the many umpires participating in the events. Ostrowski, a fellow sports writer for the *Baltimore Gay Paper*, was happy to be in the Bay Area. The transgendered school teacher has been an umpire in gay softball for years.

"Sometimes people like to blame us for what they see as a bad call," she said. "But this is about having fun, and most players have been good-natured."

San Diegans & celebs

While former San Diego Padre Billy Bean's Fort Lauderdale team opted not to show up, in the C Division, the Boston Shamrock Stallions' designated hitter is Bill Konigsberg, an openly gay editor at ESPN.com. Konigsberg has pretty much been the inspiration for ESPN.com's ongoing coverage of lesbian and gay sports stories.

Many lesbian players cheered on their friends after their teams were eliminated. Plastic beverage bottles filled with coins became the popular percussion instrument of choice.

And while a softball event is a comfortable space for lesbians to gather, some were a bit publicity-shy, and preferred not to be named, showing caution over the potential for discrimination.

"I'm just here having a great time," said one woman from a Minnesota team. "It's great to be myself here, because back home I have to be a bit more careful."

Left fielder Jeanne Hayashi of San Diego's Agouron watched popular favorite Womenmoto (also of San Diego) play Roscoe's Kaddy-whompus of Phoenix, both in the competitive division. She enjoyed playing, and her team "did all right" in that bracket. This is her third World Series.

"Toronto [2000] and Kansas City [1999] were also fun," she said. "This one's better than Kansas City, because of the location."

Asked about the significance of competing in the 25th anniversary series, Hayashi admits that she wasn't "sentimental or anything, but it's pretty cool."

Asked if she considered softball as much a social event as a sporting event, Hayashi agreed. "With slow pitch, yeah, you're gonna see some smoking and drinking, with the sponsors being beer companies. It sort of goes with the sport."

The Agouron is sponsored by a pharmaceutical company, adding a twist to the term "cocktail."

Texans & tracksters

The World Series is a heated showdown between the best teams, but it's also a friendly five-day event for B- and C-level teams, for whom fun is the focus.

Dallas' Pegasus Softball Association brought three teams, including the C-league Dallas Hidden Door Poison. Three of the team's players relaxed after finishing competition.

"This is my second year. Last year I played in Nashville, Tennessee," said Ben Johnston of Hidden Door Poison. "We went to Toronto last year, but didn't do near as well. This is a lot more fun, too." His team finished second in its division.

Stan Smith prefers softball, "but I also do a little track and field," perhaps to cross-train. "I'm not worried about the beer I can handle the beer!" he joked.

For Danny Ray, "It's the first big gay sports event I've been to. It's been fun." The men were also promoting their own tournament October 6-9 in Dallas.

Asked if they're relieved to have their former governor finally leave his Texas ranch after a month long vacation from his presidential impersonation, the men laughed. Joked Johnston, "That was our form of punishment; send him to Washington!"

Fans & funds

Some non-playing fans were in attendance to show support in
next page ▶

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OutRight

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many loving forms families may take in 21st century America," a critical gloss on that central insight. Here, too, the Cody Statement manages to meld the best of two seemingly divergent perspectives.

The Cody Republicans do not shy away from faith, which is also ground we have almost entirely ceded to religious conservatives.

Instead, they recognize "the value and importance of moral and ethical standards." At the same time, they conceive morality as opposing "every kind of violence and hatred."

The Cody Statement is a declaration of general principles, not a policy guidebook. What does it mean, for example, for government to be neutral toward gays when it protects other disfavored groups from employment discrimination or hate crimes?

Gay Republicans have long

disagreed internally about these and other specific policy objectives. No single statement can resolve those differences and the Cody Statement doesn't try. Instead, enlisting the help of prominent and influential Republicans, it shines light on a promising path for the party and for gay equality. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

Ezerski

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for the sensitivity and dedication they brought to his case. Begoon said the only negative interaction he had was with the two paramedics who arrived at his apartment shortly after he called police. He said that although he thought both men were gay, he found them to be insensitive, judgmental, and unsympathetic.

On Wednesday, the day after Begoon was attacked, at least two people phoned police to say that they spotted Ezerski in San Francisco after seeing his picture Saturday night on *America's Most Wanted*. That promoted authorities to alert the Bay Area media late Wednesday afternoon that Ezerski may be in San Francisco.

Several of Begoon's friends phoned him that night after they recognized Ezerski when they saw his picture on local TV news shows. Begoon phoned the police and FBI that night but got no response. The person who answered the phone at the FBI office in San Francisco told Begoon a message would be passed along to an agent. The San Francisco Police detective who was assigned to Begoon's case had already gone home for the day.

Spotted at bowling alley

That Wednesday night, Ezerski went bowling. He arrived at Serra Bowl in Daly City with Troy Young, 37, a San Francisco man on probation for a drug crime. Young was part of a gay bowling league that plays there on

Wednesdays.

A player on an opposing team, Jeffrey Dangermond, took notice of Ezerski.

"He looked kind of strange, but I didn't think anything of it," Dangermond told the B.A.R. in a brief interview this week.

Dangermond saw Ezerski leave that night with Young but at the time he hadn't seen the news stories reporting that Ezerski was spotted in the Bay Area.

Meanwhile, the next morning, Thursday, August 16, at 8 a.m., Begoon phoned the FBI back. An agent called him back 15 minutes later and showed up at his apartment shortly after that. Begoon did some detective work on his own and was able to get the license plate number of Ezerski's car from the garage where he parked it Saturday night. Because he uses the garage himself, he knew that the attendants issue a ticket for each car. The attendant was able to retrieve the license plate number from their file. With the license plate number and matching fingerprints, police were able to make a positive identification of Ezerski.

Later that Thursday, Dangermond alerted police after seeing media reports and getting calls from friends who also saw the stories with Ezerski's mug shot and car description. Police say Dangermond's tip was critical to investigators tracking down Ezerski.

'I'm Adam'

About 3 p.m. on Friday, August 17, police were alerted to Ezerski's car, parked on Russian Hill. They spent the next several hours on an

undercover surveillance of the car, in case he returned.

Meanwhile, police and the FBI were hot on Ezerski and Young's trail. Someone tipped investigators that the pair was headed to Reno in a U-Haul truck.

Investigators learned that Young was registered at the Holiday Inn in Reno. They watched and waited Friday night. They saw Young leave the room to go to a Dairy Queen restaurant. When he left with two drinks to take back to the hotel, they knew that Ezerski was probably still in the room. Agents approached Ezerski first in the hotel room.

"I'm Adam. I'm the person you're looking for," was Ezerski's response to the detectives at his door, according to the FBI.

Young was arrested in the hotel parking lot.

Both men could be extradited from Reno as early as this week, Ezerski back to Florida and Young back to San Francisco.

According to Fort Lauderdale Police, Ezerski denied killing the older man, Sicherer, but admitted killing Martilotto, saying he did it in self defense after a drunken Martilotto attacked him. Police say Ezerski admitted attacking Begoon.

Police say they don't know whether Young will be charged with harboring a fugitive because they don't know whether he knew Ezerski was running from the law.

Begoon, meanwhile, is philosophical about his brush with death. He said he's noticed that trying times in his life eventually lead to something positive.

"God's not through with me yet," he said. ▼

Gay Softball

◀ previous page

players, and perhaps provide a bit of flirting of a kind rarely seen so abundantly at Twin Creeks.

Art Cardoso, who took a break between games with a friend, lives in nearby near San Jose, and was thrilled to enjoy the gay event.

"It's awesome. We've been watching games since Tuesday. It's been a very friendly environment, with just a little drama." Cardoso also found out about a San Jose league starting up, and is considering joining.

"It also brings a lot of money into the economy of both South Bay and San Francisco, which is important," said his friend, Marcello Lariosa. "Especially with the whole dot-com fallout, it shows that the whole Peninsula is not just about that industry. It shows that it doesn't have to happen in San Francisco. You're talking over 2,500 people. Multiply that in cocktail!"

The World Series closed on Saturday with a festive dinner held on one of the playing fields. Teenage goth kids spent most of the afternoon preparing meals for several hundred participants. Many players had to fly home early to their home cities, but the energetic closing still saw many players dancing to music both live

and Djed. Texan DJ Troy Sands, area singers Linda Imperial, Jo-Carol & Jeanie Tracy performed.

A special lifetime achievement award was given to Sandy Ghilarducci, the first woman to play in a Gay Softball World Series, and an 18-year organizer of GLBT sports events.

Next year's softball World Series takes place in Portland, Oregon August 19-25. "We look forward to making the 26th annual event an experience of great softball, great friendships, and great fun," said 2002 World Series Committee Chairman Roy Melani.

Other national events include the Fort Lauderdale seventh annual Hurricane Showdown in November 2001, the 20th annual Southern Shootout, March 30-31, 2002 in Birmingham Alabama, and Chicago's Windy City Blowout, July 4-7, 2002.

Final Standings

Open A Division
Finals score: LA Stray Cats 14, San Francisco Seals 11.

Open B Division
Finals score: LA Destroyers 11, San Diego Rich's 5

Open C Division
Finals score: Ft. Lauderdale Stingrays 13, Dallas Poison 7

Women's Competitive Division
Finals score: Long Beach Yes I Am

13, Twin Cities Rebels 12

Women's Alternative Division
Finals score: Ft. Lauderdale Just For Kicks 11, San Diego Women-moto.com 7

For more info on next year's event, visit <http://www.portlandgaysoftball.com/series2002>, <http://www.gsl.org>, or <http://www.nagaaa.org>.

Bowled over

Just a sporty footnote to our front page story. One of my favorite T-shirts reads "Bowling Is Healthful," and that phrase was proven ironically true last Wednesday when suspected murder suspect Adam Ezerski was spotted at a gay bowling event before fleeing to Reno, Nevada.

Last week, gay bowler Jeffrey Dangermond tipped off the police and manager Matt Mann of Daly City's Serra Bowl told Fox News that Ezerski and his alleged accomplice, Troy Young "definitely stood out." Ezerski had died his hair a garish blond.

No blond jokes. The victimization of gay people is too common, but it does me proud that a gay bowler helped turn this creep into a caught criminal. ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250378

The following person(s) are doing business as: Seventy-Seven Auto Repair, 77 Grace Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Thomas Chan-president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/19/01. **AUG. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250520

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bartley Anderson, 130 Brentwood Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Paul Villa and Rob Willis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 25, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/25/01. **AUG. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250486

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Rat Industries, 95 McCoppin Street, #E402, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Malia Spanyol. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/24/01. **AUG. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2001**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 217796

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Thomas Chan DBA Seventy-Seven Auto Repair, Located at: 77 Grace Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 10/02/1997. This business was conducted by: a individual: Thomas Chan **AUG. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250733

The following person(s) are doing business as: Morning Star Import, 2813 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Shing Yuen-Sin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/03/01. **AUG. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250661

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chinatown Economic Development Group, 638 Kearny Street, Suite #202, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by a non-profit organization signed Sally Leung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, December 10, 1992. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/01/2001. **AUG. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2001**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Gochez Gina Marie and Maia Taylor Azevedo. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 823 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. Type of license Applied for: **47-ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE** **DATE: AUG. 16, 23, 30, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250666

The following person(s) are doing business as: Doolittles, 2727 Market Street #302, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by co-partners signed George Leslie Freeman and Richard Shiu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 31, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/01/2001. **AUG. 16, 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250620

The following person(s) are doing business as: SF Handyman, 2753 Bryant Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Darrell Nystrom. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 31, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/31/2001. **AUG. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250830

The following person(s) are doing business as: Theresa's Messenger Service, 937 Persia Street San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul A. Holt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/08/2001. **AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250628

The following person(s) are doing business as: Perfect Moving, Jili Moving, 2442 34th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Duoji Han. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/31/01. **AUG. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250869

The following person(s) are doing business as: HangOnTight Productions, 1145 Union Street, Suite 12, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Susan E. Ordway. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 9, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/9/01. **AUG. 16, 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250949

The following person(s) are doing business as: Martin & Lloyd, 4104 24th Street, #236 San Francisco, Ca. 94114-3615. This business is conducted by an individual signed Martin Sanchez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/14/2001. **AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250949

The following person(s) are doing business as: Progressive Trading Company, 2248 19th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Christin L. Chow. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 24, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/24/01. **AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250748

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hanaro, 939-Geary Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kili S. Kirkpatrick. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 3, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/3/2001. **AUG. 16, 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 2001**

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Qualifications #205

Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from individuals, agencies or organizations to develop a system to measure the effectiveness of, and successes of, HUD McKinney Act funded programs in meeting the requirements of the City's Continuum of Care Plan,

The contract period will run from October 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002 for an amount to be determined.

An RFQ packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, on or after Monday, August 13, 2001. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFQ packets will also be available on the internet at <http://civiccenter.ci.sf.ca.us/purchase/pbids.nsf>, click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Wednesday, August 22, at 2:00 PM at 1440 Harrison St., 2nd Floor Conference Room, SF, CA. For further information, call Pauson Yun at (415) 557-6523. Due date for responses is Friday, August 31, 2001 at 5:00 PM



BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Proposals #204



Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from agencies or individuals interested in developing and implementing a Youth Task Force to advise the Children's System of Care on services. The Task Force will also include a service and leadership training component. The Children's System of Care provides comprehensive case management and services to emotionally disturbed children and their families.

The contract period will run from 11/1/01 to 6/30/03 for an amount to be determined.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Friday, August 24, 2001. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

The Respondents' Conference will be held on Tuesday, September 18, 2001, at 3:00 PM at 170 Otis Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, San Francisco, CA. For further information, call Susan Schorr, Contract Manager, at (415) 557-5585. Due date for responses is Tuesday, September 25 at 5:00 PM.

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

San Francisco Community College District is accepting proposals for Food Service at three different locations on our Main Campus at 50 Phelan Ave. An Open House to view all three spaces will be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2001 at 11:00 a.m. We will assemble at the City Café on the lower level of the Student Union. Proposals are due not later than 3:00 p.m., Friday, September 28, 2001.

To sign up for the Open House and to receive a proposal packet, please contact Stephen J. Herman, Director of Administrative Services or Yolanda Panem at (415) 241-2327.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 244276

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Hanaro. Located at: 939 Geary Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 10/18/2000. This business was conducted by: a individual: William Handy
AUG. 16, 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250945

The following person(s) are doing business as: The SOMA Company, SOMA Coffee, SOMA Wholesale, The Cheap Art Gallery. 1601 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Z. Rocker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/14/2001.
AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250573

The following person(s) are doing business as: Michael Merrill Design & Decoration. 1000 Brannan Street Ste. #205, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Michael Merrill, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/15/2001.
AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250988

The following person(s) are doing business as: Candie's General Merchandising. 207 Sagamore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Candelaria M. Caballero. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, August 15, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 8/15/2001.
AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 323231

In the Matter of the Application of Arthur Charles Corbett For change of Name. The application of Arthur Charles Corbett for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Arthur Charles Corbett has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Arthur Christopher Corbett. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25 day of September at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
AUG. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 250641

The following person(s) are doing business as: Post All Center. 530 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Holbert. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, July 31, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 7/31/2001.
AUG. 23, 30, SEPT. 6, 13, 2001

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Coordinator of Transitional Living Facility for 18-23 Year Olds to coordinate our Avenues to Independence Program. Responsible for the management of day-to-day operations, and all activities related to the Program. Including supervision of staff, grants management and management of budgets and finances. Energetic and creative thinker to provide leadership for staff in accordance with agency's policies and goals. Five years of youth program management, and experience with homeless and runaway youth required. Masters in related field, preferably MSW. \$42-45K DOE.

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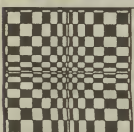
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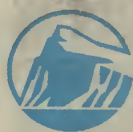
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Ice goddess Kelly McGillis' comeback?
She plays an English professor ready to shag
a lesbian detective in 'The Monkey's Mask.'
page 32

Paging James Brolin
Not Barbra Streisand,
but an amazing facsimile!
page 28



Young French lust
Summer gay love
in 'Come Undone.'
page 31



BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 31 • No. 34 • 23 August 2001

Peter on Diving Board, June 1968,
part of David Hockney
Retrospective: Photoworks,
now showing through October 21
at the Museum of Contemporary
Art in Los Angeles.

David Hockney living Photographs in retrospect **by Glen Helfand**

David Hockney is a lifestyle artist. The colorful, exuberant gestures of his paintings and photographs often depict his fabulous homes, pools, travels, friends, pets and youthful male friends. His pictures offer us views into a world that's enviable. Hockney seems to have a perpetually sunny psychology, great wit, good taste, an ability to turn simple things into lush high art, and the skill of a gracious host — his work suggests he has scads of illustrious friends. Hockney is a gracious artist; looking at his work, you can't help but feel as if you're invited into the fold, that you're part of a gay, urbane, art-world elite that he exists within so comfortably.

When he depicts his world in painting form, the fabulousness somehow seems embellished, artfully tweaked and made more vibrant with bigger splashes of color and more sensuous curves. His reality is imbued with electric Fauvist color schemes and playfully skewed, often Cubist perspectives.

But throughout his career, Hockney has also worked with photography, for painting studies and for finished photo pieces, and the medium inherently implies a greater sense of realism. One of the most wonderful aspects of the highly popular traveling retrospective of his photographic works now at LA's Museum of Contemporary Art is that there's such a thin division between camera-based works and his paintings and drawings. It's a feast of an exhibition, filled with single-frame Polaroids of pals, and the often breathtaking photocollages, a technique he popularized (who hasn't made a multi-snapshot panorama while on a road trip after seeing

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Pablo Pimento

Here's a fun-size factoid to chew on along with your danish and your cuppa hot java: In the last three years, every single gay curator on the staff of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, from the chief curator on down (and believe us, it was once quite a sizable list), has moved on to other positions, in places like NYC's Museum of Modern Art. Most of the gay staff made the jump within the first

year of the reign of former museum director **David Ross**.

A dark period has ended with Ross' sudden resignation last week. According to an **art-world mole** privy to the Byzantine doings of art professionals, dealers, and collectors, the surprise is apparently that it took so long for SFMOMA trustees to wake up and smell the directorial coffee. Headly brew indeed.

The signs of trouble were always there to caffeinated and wide-awake art-watchers. That unpleasantness with heirs of an estate quite generous with the

museum, galleries and artists. The museum dragging them into court to cough up their **Picasso**: veddy bad form. The heavy-handed way the museum undermined the efforts of the Rental Gallery to deliver art at populist prices. Let's just say the now-deposed museum chief was always a wee bit out of touch with the SF artists community.

So any incoming SFMOMA director would be an improvement, you'd think. Is there a Prague Spring coming to SF in the fall? The way things go with the upper echelons in this town, it could well come down to a sad little choice between the devil you know and the devil you don't. We're staying tuned.

she can gget with a few martinis down her gullet!

Burping man

Yes yes, we know that the delicate swan Portia C-J calls the annual **Burning Man** festival out in the desert "the white-trash Venice Biennale," but we have friends (and half our staff: telling, no?) who avidly rush out there with their week's worth of water and toilet paper, and for whom it's transformative.

"If you're interested in a queer Burning Man tidbit," writes Gg. Taylor, "I still bring together the biggest queer theme camp on the Playa, and we're inviting other people to join us again in the desert. Our camp is known as M*A*S*Hcare, home of **Jiffy Lube**, the Playa's primary queer filling station. Info about our camp can be found at www.ggreg.com/bm/ but on the Playa we'll be located at 5:15 and The Child.

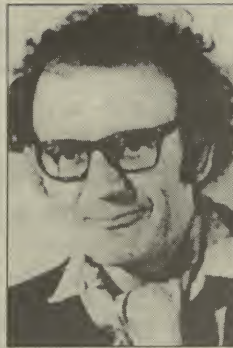
"Jiffy Lube is a thinly-veiled queer meeting spot and caring circle. Last year, we created a backroom in the rear of a 25' U-Haul. I put a TV in the back of the U-

Haul playing porno alternating with **Disney** films, and in the flickering glow it was a hoot to watch about 40 guys going at it at once, some in clown outfits, some nekkid muscle queens, a smattering of skirts and body paint. And in the background, just a spoonful of sugar. This year, we have an additional 20'x60' military platoon tent dedicated to 'personal introductions,' in addition to the two other chillout tents.

"We're welcoming and encouraging folks to come and camp with us and create a community out there of kindred spirits in the dust. Our theme this year is, 'My Camp's Got a Bad Reputation,' which beat out the runner-up tagline, 'Get in, get off, get out, rinse, repeat.' Love when the community comes together, don't you?"

Stage door Johnny

That was very many column inches ceded over to theatre critic **John Simon** in the *NY Times Book Review*, where he held forth on **[John] Gielgud: A Theatrical Life** by **Jonathan Croall** (Continuum). Two paragraphs of Simon's review concerned Giel-



A life of actor John Gielgud

gud's homosexuality. First we revisit "that unhappy incident in 1953 when an agent provocateur elicited a pass from him in a public lavatory." But then there is also this: "He, who had refused to play the homosexual **King Edward II**, was, in his old age, delighted to reshoot a movie nude scene with other naked men, exclaiming, 'Oh bliss!'"

Maybe Simon, previously widely perceived to be homophobic, has mellowed a bit. He repeats British reviewer **Frank Kermode's** delicious description of Gielgud's Hungarian companion **Martin Hensler** as Gielgud's "rather sullen but expensive partner."

Wayne's world

If playwright **Tony Kushner** doth protest a little too much in his new introduction to the Da Capo Press paperback edition of **Wayne Koestenbaum's The Queen's Throat - Opera, Homosexuality and the Mystery of Desire** that he is *not* an opera queen, he is at least spot-on when noticing where politics and culture intersect. Expounds Kushner: "To those opera queens who object to the presence of so much that is political in a book about opera, who wish to see their amours as existing outside the continuum of history, who desire, like **Dick Cheney** claiming that government had nothing to do with his raking in millions of dollars in the petrochemical industry, to believe themselves to be self-created

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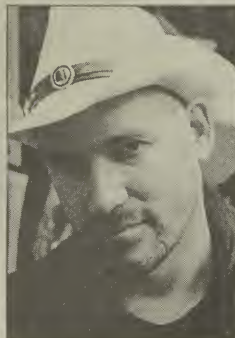
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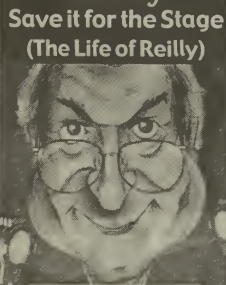
Former SF party boy **Ggreg Taylor**, now residing in London, is back in town for a visit and throwing a free (no cover) party this Saturday, August 25, 9 p.m. 'til 1 a.m., at the Eagle Tavern, 12th St. at Harrison. Don't you just love that word *free*? Should be an interesting wingdings for a few hundred friends anxious to know how Ggreg's ggetting along in the fallen empire.

The host will only be meeting and ggreting at the party 'til 12:30 a.m. Then, new Brit boyfriend **Warren Britton** in tow, they're off on a SoMa bar ggalivant. Queens have been warned to be ggracious to the charming but shy boy who is now Mrs. Ggreg. The warnings goos double to bitch-about-town **Portia Copplethwaite-Jones**. We all know how mouthy

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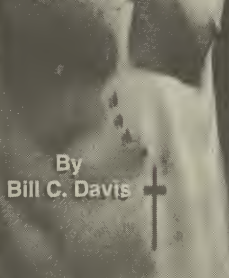


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'Avow' playwright Bill C. Davis

by Richard Dodds

One of the gay characters in Bill C. Davis' play *Avow* describes himself and his lover as "salad-bar" Catholics: "We take what we feel will nourish us, and leave the rest alone."

Davis, whose best-known play is *Mass Appeal*, is also in a relationship that breaks the rules of the Catholic Church. Yes, he said, he probably is a salad-bar Catholic, though he finds the term a little flip to describe his own beliefs.

"The Church is less a club than it is something that is both internal and external," he said. "It's not like being part of the Boy Scouts or the VFW. I do think that individual members of the Church can witness to something spiritually, and the Church has an obligation to respond to that."

In *Avow*, opening this week at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, a gay couple asks a progressive priest to bless their union, a request that has unexpected ramifications that extend beyond just the priest and the couple.

When the play opened in New York last year, the critic for *The New York Times* called it "a broadside against the Roman Catholic Church [that] ridicules the attitudes of the Church toward gays, unwed mother and priestly celibacy."

Davis, who doesn't read reviews, was aghast when he heard what the *Times* had said. "That's such a misinformed, prejudiced response to the play," he said during a summer visit to San Francisco, "because that's absolutely what the play is *not* doing. I feel it portrays the priests in the play as very human and loving and caring and non-judgmental, the opposite of what usually happens with priests on stage."

In *Mass Appeal*, seen on Broadway in the early '80s, Davis created a conflict between two priests: an avuncular older clergyman who knows how to give his parishioners what they want, and an energetic younger priest with a bisexual past who wants to stir things up.

While it may seem Davis is committed to religious themes, none of his plays between *Mass Appeal* and *Avow* has explored issues of the Church. *Dancing in the End-Zone*, for example, looked at college football as a metaphor for war, while *Spine* examined a family torn apart by cancer. And after his visit to San Francisco, he was headed to Los Angeles to work on a musical version of *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*.

The 49-year-old Davis was



Davis sees the Catholic Church as fertile territory to explore.

raised and schooled as a Catholic in Poughkeepsie, NY, where his future first began to reveal itself. "The chemistry teacher directed me in a play, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and I just kept changing the lines, rewriting them and extending my part," he said. "He finally told me I couldn't do that, but it was my first inclination that I like to write dialogue."

The same teacher, a Catholic brother, also went to bat for Davis when he wrote a play that the school refused to produce because of its sexual nature. Davis came to find affirmation for his own spiritual pondering in the Church's thoughtful renegades.

"The ones I was drawn to were somewhat radical but also had a respect for the teachings of the Church," he said, "so there was this struggle going on with them, and with me, too. I'd listen to them, trying to understand and go forward, rather than just going against the Church completely. My first response was to say, 'They're just a bunch of repressed psychotics.' And I still think that way sometimes."

While the subject retains a personal pull on Davis, he also sees the Catholic Church as fertile dramatic territory. "It's so slow to change that it's a safe bet to write about the Church, because the play will last for a while," he said. "And I think it's always interesting to balance sexual passion with spirituality."

In *Avow*, the character Brian

wants to be part of the Church while still challenging its anti-gay rules, but his partner Tom wants to obey the Church, even to the point of celibacy, because he has come to think that is a virtue. "The Church is in Brian and Tom's DNA, and one step to freedom is to be able to shape this thing that is shaping them," Davis said. "I think what Brian does is brave and heroic, and Tom is just human and frail and maybe the victim of internalized homophobia."

Davis has been in two long-term relationships with men, currently for five years with a chef with whom he shares a home in Connecticut. Even so, he is uncomfortable calling himself gay. "To say I'm gay, it's like saying there's this condition I have," he said. "I'd rather say, 'I'm with Greg.' Who knows? Maybe in five years, I'll want to be with a woman."

Davis is also wary of being pegged as a writer with an agenda. "I don't think I am writing from some particular agenda," he said. "I think if I was married and had 10 kids, I would still look at the situation of gay marriages and find it incredibly interesting. The fact that it would be denied to people is both criminal and dramatic." ▼

Avow will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Oct. 20. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972.

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Channeling Barbra

Brinberg does Streisand in loving homage

by Richard Dodds

If Barbra Streisand really does stick to her decision to retire from concerts, Steven Brinberg isn't worried. "I won't have as many concert gowns to copy," he said, "but it makes me more valuable because I'm your only option to see Barbra live."

Brinberg, opening this week at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, has been making his living by recreating Streisand's voice and personality in theaters and cabarets since 1993. But unlike Jim Bailey, who offers a literal carbon copy of the superstar, Brinberg adds a little edge to his Barbra.

"I feel I'm qualified to poke fun at her because I really love her, and I think that comes across,"

Brinberg said. "I also only poke fun at things that I think are fair game, like her perfectionism, but I don't poke fun at the way she looks, and I completely steer away from her son."

Billed as *Simply Barbra*, the production is structured as a Streisand concert with both patter and songs, though the lyrics to some of her signature tunes may be altered, and some of the songs are definitely not in the Streisand songbook.

"I do them as she would do them," Brinberg said, "because I know where she would breathe, and I know where she'd hold note."

Brinberg discovered his ability at vocal mimicry while growing up in the Bronx, and even in his Streisand show he gets to display his other voices. "Within the context of the show," he said, "I do



Steven Brinberg in *Simply Barbra*

Barbra talking about Cher, Julie Andrews, Bea Arthur and Katharine Hepburn. It's fun because I'm dressed as Barbra somehow trying to make you believe

I'm these other ladies."

While Brinberg has been called everything from a drag diva to a gender illusionist, he prefers another description: actor. "I just feel like I'm an actor," he said. "And this just happens to be the part I'm playing. And it is a part, not a lifestyle. I never put on any women's clothing unless I'm going on the stage."

Even so, what he does for a living has complicated his dating life. "I haven't quite found that person who's fond of the visual when I'm all made up," he said. "I'm proud of what I do and I really think I'm good at it. If someone has a problem with it, it's unfortunate. But hopefully I'll find my James Brolin. Maybe in San Francisco."

Brinberg (and Barbra) will be in San Francisco through Sept. 16. Call 861-8972 for more info.

Dyke soup

Tina D'Elia was alternately fascinated and repelled by Groucho



Tina D'Elia as Groucho Marx

Marx as a child. But while kibitzing with audiences at poetry slams in the Boston area, this Latina lesbian found herself sometimes falling into a Groucho groove.

Friends suggested she develop a one-woman show as the mustachioed comedian, and one came up with the idea of having Groucho wake up one day as a Latina lesbian. D'Elia took the idea, but turned it on its head. *Groucho: A Day in the D'Elia Soup* explores the pickle of a Latina lesbian waking us as Groucho Marx.

D'Elia first performed the show in Boston several years ago, and now that she's a Bay Area resident, she's offering it to audiences at Footloose's Venue 9 beginning this weekend. In the show, D'Elia plays seven characters in addition to the transformed Tina, including her therapist, her girlfriend, and even Rita Hayworth, as she tries to suppress her Groucho-ness.

"I am mocking everything," she has said, "including myself."

For tickets, call 289-2000.

Mini-review: McKechnie

Donna McKechnie brought her one-woman show to the Alcazar Theatre last week, and sorry to say, it's not ready for prime time. The two-act personal and career retrospective was seldom more than mildly entertaining, and despite her efforts to share her darker moments with us, it remained frustratingly superficial.

The first act began brightly enough (but with no help from the atrocious stage lighting), with McKechnie trying to find the right opening number, and continued in this fashion as she musically paid tribute to Hollywood's dreammakers. But by the end of the first act, McKechnie had veered into unabsorbing personal stories punctuated with vaguely relevant songs.

The second act was much more career-oriented, as she took us through her Broadway credits, offering up genial anecdotes and performing song-and-dance snapshots of her work. But when she got to "If My Friends Could See Me Now" from *Sweet Charity*, it finally revealed a likable performer without that extra something that creates a star.

That's why her role in *A Chorus Line* of Cassie — a dynamic dancer who couldn't quite take the next step — fit her so well. But her effort at recreating Cassie's signature solo on "The Music and the Mirror" was ill-advised all these years later. It undercut the best memory we have of McKechnie.

Short scenes

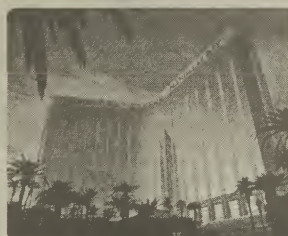
• *Falsettos* has made itself at home in little old Larkspur. William Finn's 1992 musical about a gay man, his ex-wife, his ailing lover, his confused son, and

page 30 ►

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OPERA

Gay man for 'Little Women'

Composer Mark Adamo brings classic novel to opera stage

by Jason Serinus

Mark Adamo's name is about to be known across America. On Wednesday, August 29, PBS will televise his operatic adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, *Little Women*. This week, the Houston Grand Opera recording of the work (*Ondine*) arrives in stores.

One listen to *Little Women's* delightful assemblage of arias, duets, and quartets explains why the 39-year-old composer is experiencing such extraordinary success. Adamo has managed to distill into his engaging libretto and score what he terms "the plethora of events that Alcott piles into her tidy morality tale for young readers."

"If you have ever heard or uttered the words, 'I think I've outgrown this relationship,' then *Little Women* is about your life," explained Adamo in a recent interview.

"All the movement in the work is psychological. It's entirely about people changing their perspectives. Even though there are a fair number of incidents, the real plot is psychological. It's about a woman who is learning to let go."

"Jo is constantly being confronted with the music of change, and resisting with musical stasis. In trying to sketch out a way this would sound, I placed all of the intertwining incidents in a kind of tonal foreground against a non-tonal background. This enabled me to have the best of a number of worlds. The non-tonal materials allow me to inflect the words



Steve J. Sherman

"Somehow I didn't think of myself as a composer."

miere, he realized "there were too many people who believed in what I did for them all to be delusional." Three years later came *Little Women*, with productions in Houston followed by Opera Pacific, Central City Opera, Minnesota Opera, and soon New York City Opera and Glimmerglass. Now at work on the opera *Lysistrata*,

Adamo realized that 'there were too many people who believed in me for them all to be delusional.'

absolutely to the last degree, so that every harmonic change, every change of register, every leap or repeated note completely follows the conversation."

Happily, the original 1998 Houston Grand Opera cast boasted fine young singers who could also act. Two arias were written specifically for lead mezzo-soprano Stephanie Novacek, while another was composed with mezzo Joyce DiDonato's voice in mind.

Just a few years ago, Adamo expected his life to take him more into the theater than the opera house. "If I was going to follow anyone's footsteps, I thought it would be Stephen Sondheim rather than Samuel Barber." Yet even as he worked as a music critic for the *Washington Post*, commissions began coming in.

"Somehow I didn't think of myself as a composer. I was puzzled that I was being asked, because I thought, 'Surely these people know that while I'm trying to do as best as I can, it's not Mahler.'"

Cities of 'Women'

In 1994, however, Adamo discovered himself writing a 40-minute AIDS memorial for voice and orchestra. After its 1995 pre-

Adamo has recently been appointed composer-in-residence for NYCO.

He is also half of our second two-husband team of opera composers (the first being Samuel Barber and Gian Carlo Menotti). Adamo met John Corigliano, 63, composer of the nationally televised *The Ghosts of Versailles* and the moving AIDS Symphony No. 1, in November 1995.

"When I read John's interviews and saw his photos, I said, 'Here's a man who wants you to know how beautiful and intelligent he is. He'll probably be a great big piece of work if I ever meet him.'"

Two months after they were introduced, they moved in together. Both men understand that opera is a living art form. "There does not need to be a conflict between entertainment and fresh art," says Adamo. "Art is a degree of entertainment; it's not a separate category."

Little Women shows how opera can survive and thrive in America. ▼

Great Performances: Little Women airs Wed., Aug. 29 at 8 p.m. on KQED, Ch. 9.



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Kevin Smith strikes back

Back to New Jersey with Jay and Silent Bob

by David Lamble

I'm all alone with one of the funniest men in the world. Kevin Smith sits in the penthouse suite of San Francisco's Prescott Hotel, working his way through a hardpack of Marlboro Menthol Lights. Some have called Smith the comic poet of male anxiety, skewering what men are afraid of with women and with each other. Others have dismissed him as just the king of cock and fart jokes, but most critics agree that Smith's five comedies have uniquely zeroed in on the hazards of male bonding.

By the end of *Clerks*, Smith's uproarious saga of convenience store-worker Dante (as in, trapped in Hell) Hicks, forced to endure a 16-hour shift in a New Jersey Quickstop, it's clear that the real love of Dante's life may not be his cocksucking girlfriends but his buddy and fellow clerk Randal. Smith concedes that the homoerotic subtext of *Clerks* was at the time of its shooting unclear to the actors playing Dante and Randal, Brian O'Halloran and Jeff Anderson. "There was one point where that movie was in danger of not being what it is today when I was going to play Randal myself, and that's why Randal has all the best jokes in the movie. But the key to [the gay humor] was that it was never played consciously. I remember after the movie, when we were editing, I was telling Jeff, 'The homoerotic content of this movie really comes through in your performance.' And he said, 'What are you talking about?' I mean that you're kind of in love with Dante." Am I? What?

"I mean, we didn't trick them into doing it, but I think if he had known in advance that that's what he was supposed to be doing, it might have telegraphed too broadly, or he might not even have wanted to do it. Going in there and just doing it as written, without going into the inner motivations of each character and really getting all actorly with it, it plays like a charm."

Smith adds that the same approach applied even more to his

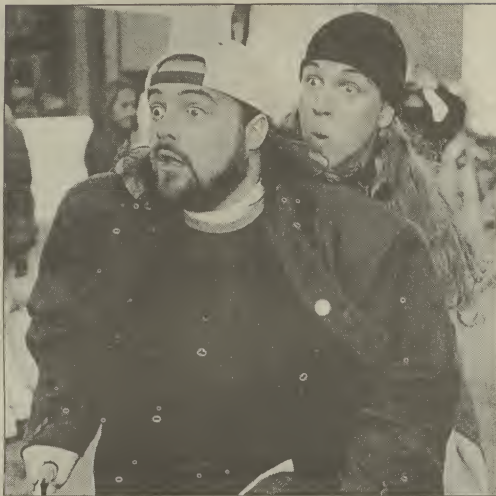
third film, *Chasing Amy*, where the cartoonist played by Ben Affleck falls in love with a lesbian comic-book artist (Joey Lauren Adams) while his partner (Jason Lee) has a jealous hissyfit. "I was never drilling Ben and Jason to 'play it up that you love that guy, and when Ben goes for that kiss,' but it kind of comes through in the performance. That's a credit to the actors, because it really just lays on the page otherwise."

Male on male

Smith notes that the gay-friendly tone of his films comes from his basic take on male-to-male relationships. "I've always found them to be this weird dichotomy of, of course typical male-bonding, but just this weird kind of unspoken marriage of sorts. When you hang out with a guy for years, you are essentially married, girls come in-between you, it is a cat-fight of sorts. That's jealousy. That male-male jealousy exists, and I always felt that's something fun to talk about. I've had relationships with guys where, yeah, I got absolutely jealous when somebody came into the mix."

"Or relationships that were not as comfortable as the girl-girl college relationships you hear about, where they wind up a tussle in the bed, and they're like, 'God, what happened? That was weird.' Girl-girl relationships are so great because you can get away with crossing the line and nobody really paints you as some kind of social pariah. The male-male version of that is dangerous because people tend to label you gay. I always thought that was really unfair — how come the girls can get away with it, and the guys can't get away with it, if they're so inclined?"

Smith says that his latest Quickstop opus, *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, is the last of the *Clerks* cycle. "I will still be making comedies, but the big difference is we won't be making comedies that feature characters from the last five movies. It's time to put a cap on all the interconnected movies before it all gets too incestuous." Smith remembers the impulse to stick a scene with his lov-



Kevin Smith and Jason Mewes in *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*

able monsters, Jay and Silent Bob, into *Chasing Amy*, just as he was afraid, "I'm getting so touchy-feely, the people who loved *Clerks* and *Mallrats* aren't going to like this." So I put Jay and Bob in there as a safety net. But I've often wondered if I hadn't used Jay and Silent Bob as a crutch, what kind of a movie it would have been."

Lesbian line

While noting that he hung out with the *Go Fish* posse when both the breakthrough lesbian comedy and *Clerks* were showing at Sundance in '94, Smith claims that most of the inspiration for his character of Alyssa, the dyke who crosses the line, came from actress Joey Lauren Adams, although he admits that Guin Turner of *Go Fish* was consulted on the accuracy of certain sexual situations he dreamed up for *Chasing Amy*. "There was one thing there where we talked about 'tongue-fucking,' and she said, 'What's that?' I've never heard of that before." I said, 'Alright, I'll take that out of the script.'

"From the get-go she said, 'Look, it's real good, but you're going to piss off some lesbians

who believe there's no such thing as going back and forth. You are or you're not.' You know, in the gay community, there's that bias against the bi community. And it's true there are women like Alyssa out there. That's where we got into a tiny bit of trouble. One of the negative reviews said, 'This is the typical male horseshit of the lesbian who's converted by the man.' Some people feel I was just roasting the old chestnut that all some lesbians need is a real good

hardy fuck by the right guy. That kind of bugged me because I was so not saying that and would never say that. I don't believe in the power of male prowess to that degree, or to any degree at all."

The penultimate gay-friendly moment comes when two current teen stars (Jason Biggs of *American Pie* and James Van der Beek of *Dawson's Creek*) have a debate on homophobia. "Jay and Silent Bob are in a corner talking, and Jason Biggs says, 'What's with the weird gay huddle?' And James says, 'Gay. What's gay about it? Why are you such a homophobe?' Acknowledging the humor in the movie and defanging it at the same time."

Smith winces at a recent barb from GLAAD calling his work homophobic. "How can our entire body of work, which has always been very gay-friendly, with *Chasing Amy* being the top of the pyramid, how can there be a homophobic movie in that mix, when you have a moment in this movie where the Silent Bob character [Smith himself] looks at the camera and nods, Yeah, he would suck Jay's dick."

"I hope I'm not spoiling anything for anybody. So it was really disconcerting to get that [GLAAD] letter, because if there's a side, I'm on yours. This is not the movie to go after." ▼

Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back opens wide Friday.

Backstage

◀ page 28

their lesbian neighbors is playing at the Larkspur Café Theatre through Sept. 8. Dinner is optional. Call 924-6107.

• The San Francisco Fringe Festival is offering a tag-team deconstruction of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Six directors working with six casts will each present 10 minutes of the play as a benefit for the festival. A *Sixth of Tennessee* will run Aug. 23-25 at the Exit Theatre. Call 673-3847.

• The critics weren't very kind

to fellow critic Walter Kerr and his wife Jean when they wrote the 1958 musical *Goldilocks*. A spoof of the early days of movies, it's getting a fresh hearing thanks to 42nd Street Moon. The run is Aug. 29-Sept. 16 at the Eureka Theatre. Call 255-8207.

• Look for Lypsinka at the Alcazar Theatre beginning Sept. 14. This is the lip-synching diva's first San Francisco gig in four years. Tickets are now on sale at www.lyp-tix.com. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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FILM

Picking up the pieces

French youth 'Come Undone'

by Tavo Amador

First love, summer love, and coming out to yourself and to your family are often bitter-sweet experiences that can have a lasting impact on one's life. These themes are explored in Sébastien Lifshitz's French-language film *Come Undone* (*Presque Rien*), which opens at the Lumière on Friday, August 24.

The movie does not follow traditional dramatic structure. Instead, it moves back and forth in time, raising questions but not necessarily answering them. The story begins with Mathieu (Jéréme Elkaim) waiting for a train and talking into a small tape recorder. We don't know whom he is addressing when he says that it feels strange going back without "you."

We soon flash to a summer day at the beach, near Nantes in Western France. Mathieu and his sister Sarah (Laetitia Legrix) and a woman named Annick (Marie Matheron), who seems to be a housekeeper/friend of the family, are together. Mathieu makes eye contact with Cedric (Stéphane Rideau of *Wild Reeds*), who follows him home one day. The two meet later that evening in the woods near the beach. They acknowledge their mutual attraction and, after a little tenseness, begin to kiss.

The next day at the seashore, Cedric approaches Mathieu, who shuns him, sending him away,

fearing that his family will learn about them. Enraged, Cedric becomes abusive. Later, Mathieu finds Cedric, apologizes, and they resume their intense lovemaking and mutual discovery. Cedric has been out longer, is about a year older (19), and briefly worked as a hustler. He has dropped out of school and has a low-paying job at a food stand near the beach's amusement park. Mathieu will be entering college at summer's end.

For a while, mutual attraction and the joy of first love gloss over class differences and aspirations. But things go wrong. The story shifts to Mathieu's being treated in a hospital for a suicide attempt. Cedric has been to see him, but Mathieu has refused to meet with him. The sympathetic psychiatrist (Rejane Kerdafrrec) tries to get Mathieu to open up, but he remains silent.

The kaleidoscopic recollections of important events and actions include Mathieu's coming out to his sympathetic mother (Dominique Reymond), postponing school to move in with Cedric in Nantes, and becoming friends with Cedric's ex-lover Pierre (Nils Ohlund). There are also more romantic and erotic interludes between the two young men. This structure is often frustrating. What holds the film together and keeps the viewer interested are the central characters, especially Mathieu.

Elkaim's complex performance captures Mathieu's youthful self-involvement, his joy at acknowl-



Jéréme Elkaim and Stéphane Rideau in Sébastien Lifshitz's *Come Undone*

edging his sexuality, his passion for Cedric, his anxiety about worrying his mother, who is suffering from a major depression following the death of his three-year-old brother, and his often hostile relationship with his sister. He is slim, with a melancholy handsomeness that makes his smiles all the more electric. By revealing only bits and pieces of himself, Mathieu becomes as fascinating as the stray cat he finds and befriends. At times he resembles a Mannerist portrait, perhaps by El Greco, working in a sensual rather than spiritual mood.

Rideau's Cedric is a splendid contrast. He is more direct, more earthy, more muscular than Mathieu, and more driven by lust. He is also skeptical of families —

his mother left when he was five, and he hasn't seen her since; his father, who accepts his orientation comfortably enough, has had a string of girlfriends. Cedric has long been on his own, and it has hardened him, yet his joy in seducing and falling in love with Mathieu reflect a romantic side at odds with his previous experiences. He is not an intellectual, not especially cultured; while Mathieu may be both, or may aspire to both. But Cedric is smart enough to enjoy the moment and not worry much about the future. The love scenes between the two

are beautifully filmed and convincingly acted.

Because of the movie's structure, viewers will leave the theatre with more questions than when they came in, which many will find frustrating and annoying. Those who can accept that not all questions can or need be answered should find the characters engaging enough to make this a memorable experience. Depending on one's perspective, Lifshitz's film (co-authored with Stéphane Bouquet) may seem an intriguing mystery or a sphinx without an especially interesting secret. ▼

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Kelly McGillis leads Susie Porter into the seamy underworld of a murdered young woman in *The Monkey's Mask*.

Lesbian noir

'The Monkey's Mask' at the Castro

by David Lamble

You're a great fuck, but a very ordinary detective." Imagine this deliciously backhanded compliment coming from Faye Dunaway's lips right after she's slept with Jack Nicholson in *Chinatown*—or better yet, instead of "My daughter, my sister..." Imagine, instead, the line coming from ice goddess Kelly McGillis, playing

an ultra-postmodern English professor ready to shag street-smart lesbian private dick Jill Fitzgerald (Susie Porter), and you have an idea of what to expect from *The Monkey's Mask*, Samantha Lang's saucy, noirish thriller that serves up murder at a poetry slam. Opening Friday at the Castro Theatre, *The Monkey's Mask* is freely adapted from Australian author Dorothy Porter's experimental mystery composed in narrative verse.

Lang, whose unsettling romantic suspense drama *The Well* plotted the misadventures of a middle-aged spinster trying to hold onto a fickle younger woman on a harsh ranch in the outback, decided to eschew the more daring choice of rendering *Monkey's Mask* in verse. Instead, she uses a high-tech film palette of bluish-gray, combined with sharply jarring cuts—as when Jill learns about the murder of a young girl on her car phone just as she turns the wheel to avoid oncoming headlights around a sharp curve. Annie Kennedy's script transforms some of Porter's poetry into Raymond Chandler-like hard-boiled narration for Jill: "I never knew poetry was about opening your legs one minute./ Opening your grave the next."

Like Nicholson's Jake Gittes, Jill Fitzgerald is forever behind the curve, always the last to know some vital clue in the case. And like Jake, part of the reason for Jill's being slow on the uptake is her all-too-personal involvement with a possible suspect, McGillis' super-cool Diana.

It seems like a long time ago, and it was, when Kelly McGillis hit for Hollywood's version of the cycle: four straight box office and/or critical hits with four hot young directors. She was a Reagan-era Grace Kelly, with a coolly pretty surface betraying a smoldering sexual fire. For post-*Top Gun* McGillis, the sky beckoned. But then, for no particular reason, flameout. For Lang, getting McGillis is a coup equal to the joy Hitchcock would have felt if he could have coaxed Kelly out of retirement for *Marnie* or *The Birds*.

Hard edges

Jill's life gets complicated when her search for a hard-edged young poetess ("I wish my cunt could hurt you") turns up a badly bat-

tered corpse and a gaggle of older male poets as suspects.

"Most of the poets I get to meet are big, ugly pricks," Jill confides to Diana in a line that neatly sums up *Monkey's Mask*'s sexual politics. The film's bedside manner is its greatest selling point, and there's no doubt that Jill and Diana's relationship has the requisite snap, crackle and pop. Jill is a hard-as-nails girl who doesn't shave her armpits, and lets her lover shave her legs. Even lesbian bed death becomes fodder for post-coital chatter as Jill confides to Diana that she and her previous girlfriend read to each other until the onset of *ennui*. Diana purrs, "I promise I won't be like Beatrix Potter."

Solving the mystery behind *The Monkey's Mask* is not quite as much fun as figuring out if and when Jill will escape the gravitational pull of the Ice Queen, but there is a techno trick or two up Jill's sleeve that will keep you guessing. Lang does a nice job of juggling Jill's working-class rough edges against the pretentious yearnings of young poets on the make. As Diana dismissively sums up her poetry class, "All the girls want to be Sylvia Plath without the loony bin."

Hardcore Aussie film buffs will appreciate the cameo role of veteran actor Chris Haywood as Jill's incorrigibly boozy father waking up in her office in his undershorts for "a hair of the dog."

The life of an artist is always a tricky chore to make both dramatic and, at the same time, not unintentionally funny. Lang and company do a good job of pointing out where they hope the laughs are as they walk a fine line between good and bad poetry. While most of the male characters (pompous poets as well as surly pricks) come off a tad one-dimensional and silly, that is the risk with melodrama. On the plus side is Porter's nifty performance as Jill, nicely framed in larger-than-life closeups by Garry Philips' camera.

Ultimately, we can be thankful for what *The Monkey's Mask* isn't—last year's luridly cheesy Ellen Barkin vehicle *Mercy*, with its wildly exploitative and risible depiction of S/M lipstick lesbians. ▼

The Monkey's Mask plays the Castro Theatre August 24-30.

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Experiencing Sandra Bernhard

Her late-night talk show debuts on A&E

by Robert Leone

Comedian Sandra Bernhard's quick wit and teetering-on-the-edge style have taken her far. You either love her or hate her, but Bernhard's public persona has never elicited a tepid response. A cozy cup of chamomile tea she's not. But there are signs of a few softened edges. Can it be that a kinder, gentler Sandra has emerged?

Look at her professional accomplishments and you'll see a woman who clearly follows her own muse. She's starred in three one-woman shows: *Without You I'm Nothing*, the critically acclaimed Broadway hit; *I'm Still Here Damn It*; and *The Love Machine*, in which the performer is currently touring. Bernhard has also lent her witty, acerbic style to a host of television programs, including *Ally McBeal*, *The Larry Sanders Show*, and *Roseanne*, where she portrayed the resident lesbian.

Throw in three books, three albums, and an in-your-face fashion sense, and you've got a multimedia whirlwind.

Now Bernhard has her new late-night talk show for A&E, *The Sandra Bernhard Experience*, in the can. It will be unleashed on the viewing public for five consecutive nights beginning Monday, August 27 at 11 p.m. The show, which she likens to the old *Dick*

Cavett Show, evolved from a talk show she did on the Internet last year and will not follow a "forced, pre-interviewed sound-bite style."

"I know from performing live what grabs the audience," Bernhard said in her rapid-fire, self-assured style. "You're not going to hear about what happened in the news today. You're gonna hear more about what happened when we were kids. The kind of stuff that is evocative and fun and weird. You get to see a side of people you don't normally get to see: relaxed, intimate and talking about a wide variety of ideas. It's just a really unique form. And when the guest is musical, and they want to get up and do something, they get up. I did some stuff with Chrissie Hynde, I did a song with her. You feel like it's live, you feel the energy."

Other guests on the first five shows include Boy George, Lea DeLaria, Edie Falco, Steven Van Zandt and Gloria Steinem. And while Bernhard's guest list is generously peppered with gay and lesbian performers, don't look for sexuality as a focal point for discussion.

"It's really not about that," Bernhard asserted. "I mean, the nuances are there." About DeLaria, she said, "A lot of times the whole gay thing has thrown people off the track of her real talent. I'm of the mind that people are already clued in to that. Let's go the next step up and showcase people's talents, not their sexuality. Not just for gay entertainers, but for everybody. We don't want to see the clichés."

Asked if she ever yearned for an



George Whitehead

On her new talk show: 'You feel like it's live, you feel the energy.'

ordinary life, say as a checker at a WalMart in Kansas City, Bernhard replied, "Oh no, never. I have a lot of compassion, and I think those people are fabulous, I like to observe them. But I never wanted that. I don't want to be anonymous."

Looking into the future, the eclectic diva had this to say: "The idea is to do this [TV] show for a while," Bernhard mused, "and in-between, I hope some interesting film roles come along that are a little more multidimensional and emotional and complex. I would imagine another book sometime in the next couple of years, and more musical projects, and just a good dose of honesty and love."

Hard drive

Not surprisingly, her public and private selves are pretty much a matched pair. "It's a fine line," she said without pause. "Obviously I like to hang out and be quiet

sometimes, but not very often. I've been known to chill a little bit. But everything you see there [onstage] is a reflection of who I am and the drive I have every day of my life."

Perhaps it's the responsibilities of motherhood — Bernhard has a baby, Cicely — or the wisdom and confidence that come with maturity that make her seem a bit toned-down of late. Consider her description of an ideal day, for example: "I like to sleep 'til nine if I can," she said. "I like to go to the gym, go out for breakfast and hang out with my baby. We hit the road and go to the park. I'll hang out with friends and do work and do some writing. It's just a day that flows."

Even her approach to satire has become more thoughtful, although without losing that well-known knife edge. "No, I never want to see anybody bleed," Bernhard stated adamantly. "I'd like to see some people become a little more aware. The only people that I really take the piss out of are people that I think can handle it. I'm not going for cheap shots. It's not about denigrating people. It's about trying to get people to be better."

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Could it be that in the new millennium, Sandra Bernhard is on her way to becoming a cozy cup of chamomile tea after all? ▼

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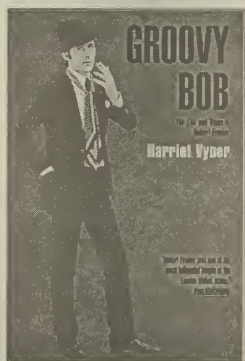
Artmeister

by Robert Julian

Groovy Bob: The Life and Times of Robert Fraser by Harriet Vynner; Faber and Faber, \$25

The late Robert Fraser will hardly be a household name to American readers. But the recent release of his biography, first published in England in 1999, illuminates the swinging London milieu of the late 1960s in an unprecedented way. Fraser, the product of an English public school education, was a bit of a ne'er-do-well for most of his "formative" years. His wealthy parents, both Christian Scientists, made sure that he attended Eton to receive the requisite preparation to assume his duties to the ruling class of the British Empire. Most of his years at Eton, he specialized in bugging boys, a practice he continued during his brief stint in the military.

But somewhere along the way, Fraser developed a passion for modern art, and a keen eye for recognizing future luminaries while they were still struggling. After apprenticing at the Guggenheim and a private gallery in New York, he returned home to London and opened The Robert Fraser Gallery in 1962. It was the venue for modern art in Britain,



and Fraser's rise coincided with the British musical revolution of 1964. The Beatles and the Rolling Stones became personal friends and clients, and Fraser served as art director for the memorable cover of the Beatles' album *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

But a brilliant eye for talented artists and nubile young boys with large penises did not make Fraser a good businessman. His gallery closed in 1969, heavily in debt, just after Fraser was arrested at the age of 30 for heroin possession (with Mick Jagger) and sent to prison for six months. His drug

next page ►

The magician's assistant

by Jim Piechota

Jeremy Thrane by Kate Christensen; Broadway Books, \$23.95

Kate Christensen is definitely not a gay man, but she certainly writes like one in her wonderfully sharp, charming second novel *Jeremy Thrane*. As her well-received 1999 debut *In the Drink* was a single girl's study of Manhattan's hip histrionics, here she tempers that urban rumpus by embracing the practical first-person viewpoint of a struggling, determined gay man.

Christensen uses the HBO version of contemporary Manhattan, recreating a soft-focused, romantic, affably gritty backdrop for her troubled players to stomp through. She spares us the commonplace pageantry of manic Wall Street door-slammers, squawking cell phones, and whiny thirtysomething single gals at the mercy of their biological clockwork.

When we first meet Jeremy Thrane, he's on an early-morning walk of shame from a trick's house in Staten Island. Life could be better, but he's not miserable yet. At 35, Jeremy's an unpublished novelist (his recent work was deemed "unpublishable" by an agent), and he lives in a Manhattan brownstone employed as a caretaker/personal assistant for Ted Masterson, a closeted action-movie star who's always on location, and with whom Jeremy is in love. But Ted has recently married

his "beard," the glittery Giselle, hoping to cement his heterosexual status with the press. The couple has also adopted a child. Unfortunately for Jeremy, the ultra-paranoid Ted suddenly sees no need to keep him on the payroll, and their sexual trysts have be-

come too risky. spare room and takes any job he can get — which turns out to be writing an erotic serial at friend Sebastian's sex-rag *Boytoy*.

Between these breezy, sometimes trivial events, Jeremy's estranged relationship with his father, Angus, who took off to trav-

the case with Jeremy's predicaments. The horrible drifting feel of a shattered life slowly fades into some chatty get-togethers in cafés serving "lamb testicles Faberge," where everything somehow starts to piece itself back together.

In the final pages, Jeremy's multilayered, happy-sappy ending smoothes over any doubt that our hero will walk off this literary stage with a book contract under his arm, a restructured father-son relationship, and his very own apartment, where he'll get laid regularly. Not exact-

ly a believable scenario, but one certainly worth day-dreaming about. ▼

When we first meet Jeremy, he's on an early-morning walk of shame from a trick's house.

come too risky.

Riches to rags

Dumped, unemployed, and now homeless, he takes stock of his life while buoyed by his 14-year friendship with Max, his flighty acquaintance Felicia, and his rocker sister Amanda. He temporarily moves into Amanda's

el in Turkey 20 years ago, lends the narrative some compassion. "I didn't miss my father any more than I missed blizzards, but, like all lost things, the memory of them had a certain poignant resonance, if only because they were gone."

But bad situations in fiction often come full circle, and that's

Groovy Bob

◀ previous page

problems continued into the '70s and were compounded by an abuse of alcohol. A sojourn of two years in India, allegedly for the purposes of soul growth, and many months in Manhattan hanging out in places like the Anvil, resulted in Fraser's eventual return to London. In 1980, he once again opened an art gallery, but his heart was no longer in the business. He died in 1986 of

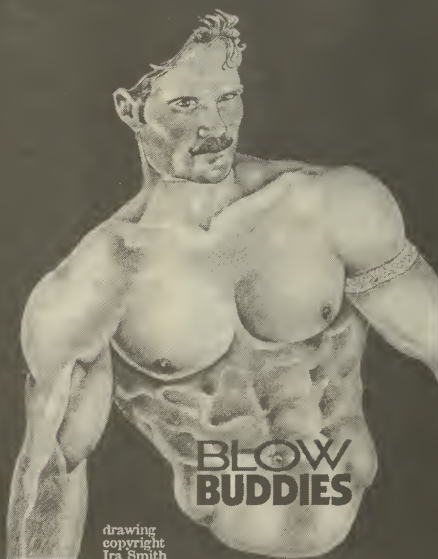
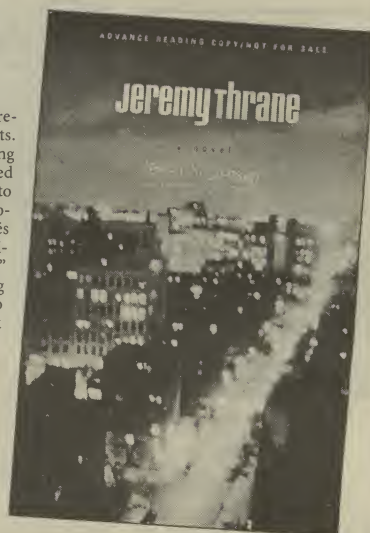
AIDS.

Harriet Vyner, in telling the life story of her late friend, uses only excerpts from interviews with his friends and acquaintances. There is no narrative, just snippets of interviews, cut together, with people like Mick Jagger, Paul McCartney, Marianne Faithfull, Fraser's parents, his brother, and many of the artists he represented, including Jim Dine, Kenneth Anger, and Ed Ruscha. As a biographical technique, it requires some adjustment on the part of the reader.

Most people will find it takes bit longer to be drawn into Fraser's life story because the narrative structure seems disjointed. However, as the book progresses, Vyner's medley of voices moves the story forward in an effective manner.

Vyner's biography of Fraser provides a rare glimpse into the world of '60s London trendsetters when that corner of the globe dominated popular culture. The romance of the era made people think that anything was possible. This consciousness was a great

opportunity for artists and drug dealers, as both were sustained by the large amounts of money that passed through the hands of rock stars and their entourages. Robert Fraser, the Pied Piper of London's modern art world, held court with the rock neophytes as the slightly older and wiser "Groovy Bob." But from the evidence presented by Vyner, Fraser found it impossible to remain calm in the eye of the storm. Venturing beyond his own abilities to cope, Fraser ultimately reaped the whirlwind. ▼



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Myself & Peter Schlesinger, Paris, December 1969, by David Hockney

David Hockney

◀ Arts cover

one of Hockney's?) — all of which reveal delectable color and composition, as well as an endearing subjectivity.

He's unafraid, for example, to reveal his wide circle of friends, famous and not-so-famous people he clearly adores, or at least finds amusing. In the show's opening gallery of this mostly chronologically-organized show, we see images of Hockney pals like legendary MoMA curator Henry Geldzahler, longtime companions Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy, and a number of attractive men and women who have appeared in many of Hockney's works. This room serves as an introduction to Hockney's Warholian celebrity milieu. In a nearby gallery, he widens his social circle with dozens of portraits made from video-still composites — an acid-colored testament to the artist's interest in consumer printing technologies — and shows the range of people who pass through the artist's studio. It includes everyone from a dorky copy machine repairman to Lotfi Mansouri and Tony Bennett.

Down in the mouth

Hockney's white blonde hair and dark round glasses have made him a recognizable celebrity over the years, but in most of the photo works, he's the man behind the camera. His presence, however, is made known by his feet and their mismatched socks, as photographed by the artist himself. They ground the picture while revealing its perspective. In the playful 1983 piece that depicts a quotidian trip to the dentist's office, we see the scene from the perspective of the exam chair (those feet poke out at the bottom). The

glossy snapshots fan out on a matte board, capturing an elderly dentist, a bit of the buxom dental assistant, various oral implements, and what might be Hockney prints hanging on the wall (barter for a root canal?). The image is irresistible, because we've all had our teeth worked on, and

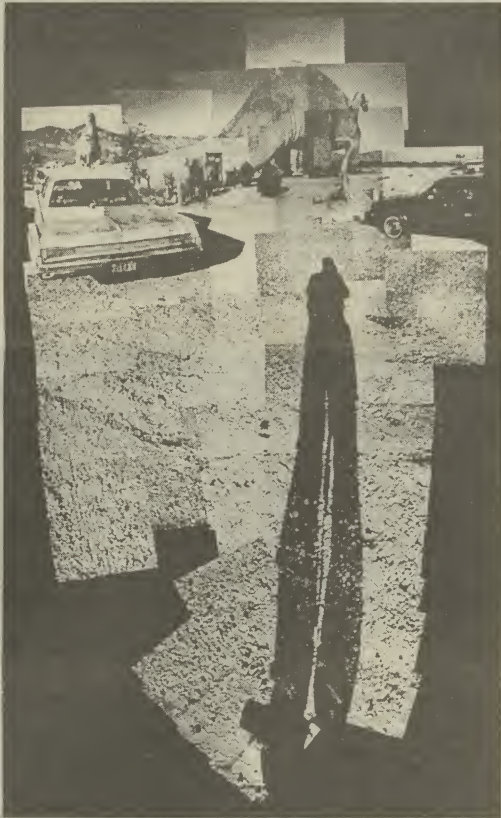
it seems the antithesis of an artful moment. He works similar magic with just as appealing montages of Scrabble games and cigarette breaks on the balcony.

Of course, the show has a section devoted to swimming pool pictures, and they're marvelous, sexy images, whether they feature

full-frontal beefcake or just the enticing blue waters. A 1988 image of rubber rings floating in a pool is a shiny, juicy-fruity geometric abstraction augmented by shadows and aqua ripples. Those are single-frame images, but the apotheosis of his swimming hole pictures is the truly stunning *Gregory Swimming Los Angeles, March 31st 1982*, a dazzling montage grid which features multiple Gregs simultaneously dog-paddling, nude in Hockney's famous pool, the one with the brushstroke arches painted on the bottom. The Cubist notions of movement and multiple perspectives are expressed perfectly in this water ballet. It's easy to imagine the process of making the picture, carefully shot and pieced together.

Perhaps it's my own love of poolside encounters, but these images linger with me the most, even if his Cubist-inspired still-life collages and images of quaint buildings in France, vista points at the Grand Canyon, or a Zen rock garden are almost as dazzling.

The later works in the show, in which we see collaged photos of Hockney paintings and exhibitions, find the artist's self-references wearing a little thin. Still, there are some interesting uses of color-laser prints of the British countryside, and a giant grid of that canyon in Arizona. These traffic in a slightly washed-out palette that exists only in the electronic realm. These works, however, seem less like Hockney than like photographers — Jack Pierson, for example — who may have picked up his pleasure-seeking torch. Nevertheless, this highly enjoyable exhibition confirms that Hockney's fire still burns brightly. ▼



Prehistoric Museum near Palm Springs, Sept. 1982, by David Hockney

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Douglas Sirk films newly out on DVD

by Gary Morris

Director Douglas Sirk (1900-1987) remains an acquired taste, long after other commercial auteurs of the 1950s — Sam Fuller and Nicholas Ray come to mind — have been enshrined. Working in the perennially maligned “women’s picture” genre, he managed to turn some unlikely source material — trashy novelists like Fannie Hurst, problematic actors like Rock Hudson, and the dubious world view of Universal Studios’ queer producer Ross Hunter — into hothouse Technicolor melodramas with a major edge. Sirk did the seemingly impossible in making movies that could be enjoyed as both straight-on tearjerkers and irony-drenched social critiques that attacked the middle-class, middle-brow America that was both his audience and his subject. The Criterion Collection has released two of his most highly regarded works, *All That Heaven Allows* (1955) and *Written on the Wind* (1956), in pristine DVD transfers

with plenty of extras, and it’s evident once again that Sirk is one taste well worth acquiring.

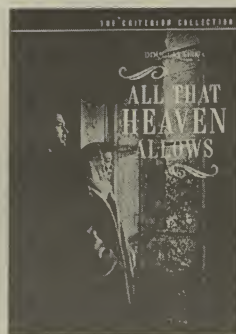
In the 1954 *Magnificent Obsession*, Sirk made Rock Hudson (30 at the time) and Jane Wyman (41) one of the decade’s most popular romantic pairs. A year later, Universal reteamed this May-December duo for the women’s picture *All That Heaven Allows*. While only the most dedicated Sirkians have praised *Magnificent Obsession*, with its eye-straining Technicolor and religious mumbo-jumbo plot, *All That Heaven Allows* mutes the palette, tightens the narrative, and offers a devastating picture of an impossible love affair.

All That Heaven Allows opens with a high-angle shot of a stiff, pristine New England church spire, and the cold, conformist values it represents dominate the town’s denizens as it does the town. We soon meet one of these denizens, the widow Carrie (Jane Wyman), the unhappy caretaker of her expensive home and her two teenage brats, Kay (Gloria Talbott) and Ned (William

Reynolds). Carrie’s life is subtly but rigidly controlled by the expectations of her children and her glacial social set, the moneyed classes who pry into everyone else’s business because they have none of their own. It’s believed that she’ll eventually marry a boring, doddering old hypochondriac (Conrad Nagel), who believes in the union of souls, not bodies. When she takes up with hunky gardener Ron Kirby (Hudson at his most beautiful), the town practically implodes.

Deep dish

Carrie’s children accuse her of the ultimate ‘50s crime for women past a certain age: lust. Her “friends” dish her both behind her back and to her face, and one of them, Howard (Donald Curtis), assumes she’s now “available” and rudely puts the moves on her. Her best friend, Sara (Agnes Moorehead), is perhaps the most quietly insidious of the lot, pretending to take Carrie’s side while relentlessly reminding her of “what people will say.” Sara is also handy when Carrie foolishly succumbs to these



pressures and dumps Kirby after their brief and promising affair. Sara offers to smooth Carrie’s way back into “the fold.”

All this sounds like the stuff of lachrymose romances of the period, lifted into cinema from the “women’s magazines” and pot-boilers of the day, and it’s no criticism of the film that it can indeed be read on that level. But there’s more going on, thanks to Sirk’s visual and emotional manipulations. Much is made in the script of the “Egyptian custom of walling up the widow alive” after the death of the husband, and painful scenes of Carrie standing by her window, paralyzed by the pressures around her, show how much she is living this history.

Such scenes suggest that Sirk isn’t so much undermining the material as presenting her dilemma unabashedly as the tragedy it is. Another motif worth noting is the contrast between the Thoreau-reading “free” crowd (Kirby and his eccentric pals) and the embalmed country-club crowd Carrie’s constantly forced to socialize with to rehabilitate her wavering bourgeois impulses. A simple reading would see Kirby’s “natural man” and his crowd as a straightforward good-evil contrast to the others, but Kirby is not all that sympathetic. He’s shown as extremely dogmatic, inflexible in the face of Carrie’s plan to cautiously free herself of her bourgeois constraints to move in with him in an old mill. Indeed, it’s as

much his intransigence as her inability to relinquish the pleasures of a plush, predictable life that cause their breakup. Sirk plants intriguing doubts about the Thoreau crowd, too; in one scene, he cuts from a celebration inside to a glass rooftop looking down at them, with dead leaves blowing grimly over the panes.

All That Heaven Allows is justly celebrated as one of Sirk’s most visually arresting films, with a gorgeous but suffocating *mise en scène*. Most celebrated in this regard is a shot some commentators have called one of cinema’s greatest, the “entombment” of Carrie when she’s reflected in her television set. The TV is a gift her children insisted on as a balm in her lonely widowhood and a dandy reinforcement of her chastity. Still shockingly strong is the shot where the salesman wheels in the TV with the words, “life’s parade at your fingertips,” while Carrie stares in horror at her own image trapped in its glass. This is also the tidy completion of the “walled-up Egyptian wives” motif.

Sirk was noted for his monstrous portraits of children, and *All That Heaven Allows* has two of his worst/best: the indecently sexy William Reynolds in fine form as the nasty enforcer of parental chastity and conformity; and Gloria Talbott as the blubbering, self-centered daughter who also can’t stand to see her mother exhibit a sexual impulse (“There’s nothing worse than an old goat!”). Despite the kids’ best efforts, a dubious “happy ending” has the couple seemingly back in sync, with a deer outside the window thrown in to bless their union, though there’s little to indicate that Ron and Carrie, two people simply in love, can survive in the cut-throat world the film presents as the norm. ▼

Beautiful losers

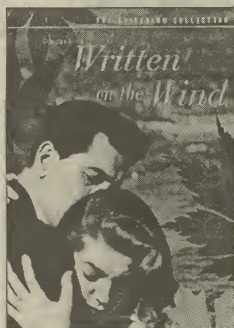
‘Written on the Wind’ out on DVD

by Gary Morris

A ficionados often rank *Written on the Wind*, now released on DVD, as one of director Douglas Sirk’s best; and, while it hasn’t worn quite as well as *All That Heaven Allows* to these jaded eyes, it still packs a punch. The film’s use of an almost enameled Technicolor recalls *Magnificent Obsession*, but the story is much stronger. The artificial lighting and crazy color schemes for which Sirk was noted are here, but again (as in *Heaven Allows*) there’s an emotional intensity, carried to operatic extremes, that works against the idea that the film is merely a florid exercise in camp.

Robert Stack is Kyle, one of Sirk’s many beautiful losers. Kyle’s a millionaire playboy driven to self-destruction by alcohol and impotence. His unwanted companion on the road to Hell is his sister Marylee (Dorothy Malone), who hates him in part because his best friend, Mitch Wayne (Rock Hudson), pays more attention to Kyle than to her. Denied Mitch’s affection (he can only see her as a sister), she fucks her way through every gas station attendant and horny rube in town.

Enter Lucy Moore (Lauren Bacall), a seemingly principled secretary who falls for Kyle rather than for his millions. As always in such stories, everyone is, or quickly becomes, unhappy. Mitch is in love with Lucy but can’t have her; Marylee is in love with Mitch but can’t have him. Marylee plants the idea in her pickled brother’s brain that Mitch and Lucy are having an affair and that the baby she’s expecting is Mitch’s. From these predictable plot threads, aided by a snappy script by George Zuckerman and fine cinematography by Russell Metty, Sirk fashions a thrilling tapestry of love and loss.



Red hot mambo

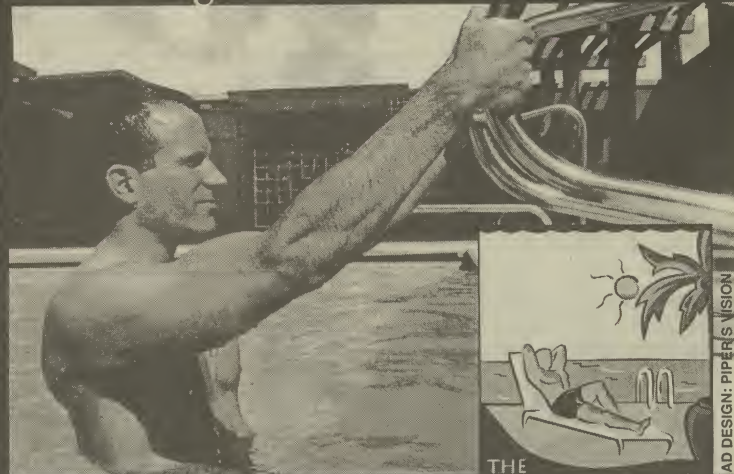
Sirk excelled in suggesting chaotic psychological states through lighting and color, and *Written on the Wind* has many such moments. One of his key strategies always is to vary the light and color values in the frame; particularly in moments of stress, as when Lucy tries vainly to penetrate Kyle’s unhappiness, there are dark areas in the frame, quite unnatural and out of sync with the rest of the image, that resonate with menace, as if the emotions of those trapped in this *mise en scène* may explode at any moment. The explosion does occur, most memorably in the riveting set-piece of the death of the pathetic Hadley patriarch. Sirk charitably credited producer Albert Zugsmith with the idea of having Marylee doing a hot mambo in a red negligee while her father, huffing his way up the steps, has a massive heart attack and falls to his death. But Sirk deserves the praise for this scene’s kinetic power as he cuts back and forth relentlessly from Marylee’s frantic sex dance and the old man’s literal rise and fall, beautifully punctuated by a breathless dolly shot following Mitch as he runs terrified to the steps.

Robert Stack, at his sexiest

here, is enormously affecting in the wretched wreck role, exposing reserves of bitterness and masochism one would hardly associate with this actor. He’s often in a kind of cowering stance, clutching his bottle and shrinking from those around him, seeming to fold into himself in palpable desperation. Dorothy Malone

page 44 ►

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare



Plushies: furry toys for adult pleasure

'In Plush We Thrust'

Stuffed animal toys always seemed innocent to me until I stumbled across plushy sites on the Web. Now I won't be able to look in the window of Does Your Mother Know? in the Castro without seeing cuddly bunnies and furry bears in a whole new arousing light.

Plushies, according to one anonymous authority figure at alt.sex.plushies (an online Usenet newsgroup "for all people who truly love stuffed animals, each in their own personal way"), are "plushmates: we hug and pet them, cuddle and nuzzle them, kiss them. Softness, warmth, and closeness can bring on arousal, and we just follow our whimsies [sic] from there."

The online plushophile community defines "plushophilia" as "a personal attraction to plushies, which may or may not be expressed erotically. In general, plushophilia might best be thought of as 'the adult appreciation of stuffed animals.'" Jokesters call plushophiles "furverts."

As with any good online community, a whole lexicon of terms has developed, their arcane nature dictated by the peculiar (and completely safe) nature of the passion. For instance, one is "baptized" the first time they go all the way with their plushy lover. After that, if your plushy is inclined to pose with its legs spread or bum raised (or both), it is said to be "begging."

If you've got a "hug" in your house, it means you've got a collection of teddy bears or other plushies. And if you're a lover of teddy bears per se, you're an "arctophile."

One common result of plushy passion is "carpet burn." The meaning is apparent. The curious part is where on the anatomy the burn occurs.

When one "feeds" one's plushy, it means "to give a bodily substance" to the always receptive creature, which never complains it's not getting enough. Ideally, it will have an "insert," the sewn-in lining of a "strategically placed hole (SPH)." If that creature should prove particularly "boinkable," it is considered a "talented" plush.

Of course plushies can get soiled from all that steamy action, but never fear, you can clean your plushy right up with "Bubble G u n d," a methanol-based plush cleaner.

A "Living Plushie" is either a "fur-suited" person — someone who dresses up as a furry anthropomorphic creature — or an actual living animal. It's at the latter where fake-fur fetishists draw the line, and where real-fur fanciers boldly go despite the cries of animal-rights protesters. ▼

"In Plush We Thrust" is the unofficial motto of alt.sex.plushies



La Tania dances
Encuentro at
Cowell Theatre.
See Friday.

Fri 24

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: Steven Brinberg stars in his one-man theatrical cabaret show, "Simply Barbara — The Farewell Tour," part homage and part parody of one of the greatest stars of our generation. Brinberg's piece, presented in an earlier version at Piaf's (1999), has toured the world and continues to play off-Broadway to packed houses. \$30 Fri. & Sat.; \$25 Wed., Thu., & Sun. Thru Sept. 16. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

The Next Stage

The Next Stage and CAFE (Combined Art Form Entertainment) present the 1st Annual Festival of Improvisation, "The AH-HA!! and the HA! HA!!" Tonight: Lucky Dog Theater and Life Stories. \$10. 8pm. (Other dates: 8/25: Imaginary Friends and Flash Family at 6pm; then Oui Be Negroes and Johnny Kats at 9pm. 8/26: The Next Stage Panel Discussion at 2pm). 1620 Gough St. (at Bush). Tix/info: 409-NEXT, ext. 3; www.cafearts.com/the-nextstage

Theater Artaud

Wishbone Entertainment with Theater Artaud presents

Beatbox: A Raparetta, a one-of-a-kind play by members of the local group *Felonious: onevehiphop*. Written in rhyme and accompanied by beatbox (vocal drum beats) and a DJ, this hard-edged street drama follows a group of young adults struggling to define their identity and asking the question: "Can I rise above my limitations?" \$25. 4pm & 8pm. (3pm & 8pm Sat.). Thru 9/8. 450 Florida St. Info: 437-2700; www.theaterartaud.org

Harvey's SoMa

Emperor Tom Basch, Empress Chablis and the Court of Infinite Possibilities host "Eat Dinner for Charity." Those who dine at Harvey's tonight will be making a modest contribution to the Monarch Charity Fund's selected organizations: PAWS, LYRIC, Tenderloin Tessie's Holiday Dinners, and the Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center AIDS Orphan Initiative (Harvey's will contribute 10% of gross receipts). Regular menu prices apply; no cover. Dine 6pm-11pm; shows at 7:30 & 9:30pm. 12th & Folsom.

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center

La Tania Flamenco Music & Dance presents "Encuentro," a combination of traditional flamenco with fresh personal interpretations by La Tania, one of the brightest young flamenco artists of today. With special guest dancer Rafael

Campallo of Sevilla, Spain, along with Andalusian singers José Anillo and Antonia de Jeréz, plus guitarist Roberto Castellon and percussionist Sudhi Rajagopal. \$25 adv.; \$27 door. 8pm. Also on Aug. 25. Info/tix: 441-3687

King Street Garage

"DMC Championships," the national DJ spin-off, an all-star event presenting some of today's hottest talents in scratching, mixing, and turntabling. The high-energy talent contest gives up-and-coming DJs a shot at instant national fame and a boost toward international competition and celebrity. 9pm-3am. 174 King St. (across from PacBell Park). 21+ w/D. Info: clubtownsend.com

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Opening night party: Situation Zero: Recent Art from Portrugal, part of YBCA's Depoits dos Cravos (After the Carnations) CenterFest. Situation Zero concentrates on Portuguese artists born around the time of the April 1974 "Revolution of the Carnation," when Antonio de Oliveira Salazar's dictatorship came to an abrupt end and a new era of vitality and potential was born. With entertainment, previews, and colorful guests. \$12. 8-11pm. Galleries & Forum Building. 701 Mission St. Info: 978-ARTS (2787); www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

Sat 25

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

The Sims Center and SFInX (SF in Exile Live at JSC) present *Bailly Femmes/Flaming Pansies*, an evening of spoken word performances by a dream team of local queer artists speaking from the gender-effeminate end of the spectrum. Featuring Carol Queen (*PoMoSexuals*; *Real Live Nude Girl*; and others); Shar Rednour (*The Femme's Guide to the Universe*); George McKibbens (*Utilities*; *CELL OUT*); Meliza Bañales (*Girls' Night Out Tour 2001*); Shailja Patel (*Dreaming in Gujarati*; National Youth Slam 2001 Finalist); Celeste Pearl (*Liquid Fire Productions*; Dykedrama Festival); Clare Lewis (*National Slam Team Berkeley 2001*); and T. Kebo Drew (*Liquid Fire Productions*). Curated and emceed by Super SFInXer Sara Moore. The performers all bear proud pedigrees of community involvement, and integrate in their art political worldviews with their personal experience of queerness and genderplay. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLIF). 8:30pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org. Part of the proceeds supports a new web archive of queer performance at SFInXer.org.

Women's Building

Radical Women hold their second annual "Fiery Feminist Freedomfest," celebrating Women's rights Day and the anniversary of American women winning the right to vote. Featuring distinguished local artists and writers, including poets Nellie Wong and Merle Woo, spoken-word artists Eighth Wonder, musicians Pam Pam and Veronica Black, belly dancing, an open mic, and more. \$5 donation (a sumptuous supper will be served for an \$8.50 donation). 7pm. 3543 18th St. (at Valencia). Info: 864-1278.

Blue Bear Theater, Fort Mason Center

Queer comedians Dojo Fabuloso perform. Frequently Asked Question on DojoFabuloso.com: "Why are you named Dojo Fabuloso?" Answer: "We wanted to make it clear we were queer, but not shame Nova in his Breeder Otherness, so, after considerable processing: 'Dojo' — The place where we practice, play, and let Nova [a trainer for the Academy of Fighting Arts] teach us how to strangle each other. Also, we like the geek-chic anime sound of it. 'Fabuloso' — Polari (gay London) slang for well, 'fabulous'." \$8. 8pm. Bldg. D, 2nd Floor, Ft. Mason Center (on the Bay btwn Fisherman's Wharf & the Golden Gate Bridge). Info: DojoFabuloso.com

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

"It's A Small Synagogue After All," an open house and tour highlighting this gay-friendly synagogue's religious, social and educational services. Rabbi Camille Shira Angel will lead a brief Havdalah service to celebrate the end of Shabbat. Free. 6-8pm. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th St.). Info: 575-4961; www.shaarzahav.org

Z Space Studio

AfroSolo Arts Festival VIII presents: "wRiting about Race," a free-wheeling discussion with playwrights who create characters not of their own race. Do they get it right? What are the risks? Who's entitled to speak for whom? What about stereotypes? Pre-

sented in collaboration with The Bay Area Playwrights festival and theatre Bay Area. Participants include moderator Prince Gomolivas and panelists Robert Alexander, Victor Lodata, and Venus Opal Reece. Free. 4:30pm. 1360 Mission St., 3rd floor. Info: www.afrosolo.org

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: West Coast premiere; Pride Season 7 special event: Bill Davis' *Avow*, the provocative hit of the 2000 Off-Broadway season, directed by Christopher Jenkins. In *Avow*, Davis (who also wrote *Mass Appeal*) once again takes on romantics and Roman Catholics. Brian and Tom ask their liberal and forward-thinking parish priest to witness and bless their vows to each other. Their catalytic request creates five separate but linked journeys of family and friendship, with each seeking to balance passion and faith. \$35 opening night; \$18-\$28 other nights; \$90-\$250 Pride Season tix. 8pm Wed.-Sat. (2pm Sun. 9/9 & 23, 10/7 & 14). 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoors lovers for a Kortum Trail hike in Sonoma Coast State Beach. Enjoy great views of the ocean from the jagged sonoma coast. It's a moderate 9-mile hike with an 800-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:45am at the Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Marlena's

Mr. Gay San Francisco 2001. Phillip Evans, in conjunction with the Imperial Court of SF, presents "A Night @ Studio 54," hosted by Emperor XXVIII A.N. John Carrillo and Mr. Gay 2000 Berlin. A benefit for Camp Sunburst. Entertainment, raffle, and other fun. All performers welcome. 8pm-midnight. 488 Hayes (at Octavia). Info: Phillip Evans at 781-1155.

Sun 26

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

"Dyke Pajama Party Porn Flicks & Clips Show," a sexy evening soiree showcasing award-winning, critically acclaimed dyke sex videos, hosted by producers/directors Jackie Strano and Shar Rednour. Slip into something comfortable and lounge about with your favorite girls to watch *Hard Love*, as well as clips from *How To Fuck in High Heels*, and clips from the upcoming, *Sugar High Glitter City*. Dress comfy, bring pillows and the most luscious squeeze you can find to maximize the Turkish bath/opium-den ambience. Drinks & snacks. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Filipino Task Force on AIDS

"TAG-INIT Summer BBQ/Karaoke Party," presented by Tambayan...Sang Barkadahian is a group for Gay/Bisexual/Questioning Filipino men 18 and over. Everyone is welcome. Free. Noon to 6pm. Located at 109 Bartlett St., suite 204. Info: 920-2630; email christian@ftfa.org

Daddy's Bar

Mark Paladini and Rick Le Blanc present the third installment of "Trailer Trash Party — Revenge of the Trailer Trash Terrestrials," a fundraising spoof to benefit

Marsha Mercant, Jackson Davis, and Virginia Wilcox star in 42nd St. Moon's *Goldilocks* at the Eureka Theatre. See Wednesday.



David Allen

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\$6.50 adults. 7:15 & 9:15pm. Thru Aug. 28. 1727 Haight St. Info: 668-3994; www.redvicmoviehouse.com

The 28th

Castro Theater

Kelly McGillis stars in *The Monkey's Mask*, based on the novel in poetic verse by Dorothy Parker, directed by Samantha Lang (*The Well*). Jill Fitzpatrick (Susie Porter) is a 28-year-old street-smart, out-of-work private investigator accepts a job investigating the disappearance of Mickey, a female poetry student, and quickly strikes a spark with the seductive Diana (McGillis), a poetry lecturer. 91 min. 7 & 9:15pm. Showdates: Aug. 24-30. At Castro & Market. Info: 621-6020; www.thecastrotheatre.com

Wed 29

Eureka Theatre

Preview: 42nd Street Moon presents "Goldilocks," a musical rarity from 1958 by theatre critic Walter Kerr and

his wife, novelist Jean Kerr, about the early days of "moving pictures." Directed by Greg MacKellan; music direction by Michael Horsley; choreography by Jayne Zaban. \$15 previews (also on 8/30). \$22 Thu.; \$25 Fri., Sat., Sun. Opens Fri., 8/31. 215 Jackson St. Tix/info: 255-8207; www.42ndSt-Moon.com

Cafe Du Nord

"Dark Sparkle," in which DJs take you to the darker side of the '70s and '80s. Underground vibes don't get any cooler than this. The crowd is always mixed/eclectic/chic in black. \$5, 10pm. 2170 Market St. Info: 861-5016.

36th

First Unitarian Church, Oakland

One-Day Bay Area LGBT Elders Conference (held in conjunction with the ILGA Gay Global Summit in Oakland, Aug. 26-Sept. 1). The morning workshop is on multicultural issues in LGBT elder communities. The first afternoon workshop, presented by NCLR staff, is on legal issues. The second afternoon work-

shop is a roundtable discussion by a variety of organizations on models of service to LGBT elders. \$20 pre-registration; \$25 same day registration (includes lunch in nearby Preservation Park, with a performance by Mother Tongue, plus free admission to East Bay Pride Mardi Gras on Sat., Sept. 1). 9am-5pm. 14th St. & Castro, downtown Oakland (4 blks west of 12th St. BART; near 980 freeway downtown Oakland exits). Info: John Ellefsen, (510) 583-9638, or Marion Abdullah, (510) 223-9034.

SF PALM

San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum presents "Theatre of Yugen," a panel discussion with director Yuriko Doi (founder of SF's Theatre of Yugen), composer and Noh musician Richard Emmert (professor of Asian theatre and music at Tokyo's Musashino Women's University), and Native American choreographer Hanay Geiogamah. The main theme will be on intercultural collaborations, with a focus on the trio's upcoming work *Crazy Horse*, a fusion of Native American and Noh theatre approaches. \$10 (\$5 students/SF PALM members). 6pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Reservations: 255-4800. Info: www.sf-palm.org

SF Art Institute

Opening reception: "Extra Ordinary," the 2001 Faculty Exhibition, curated by Madeleine Grynstejn, Elise S. Haas Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture at SF-MOMA. Featuring works by (among other presenters) celebrated San Francisco painter Brett Reichman. Also on view: work by continuing MFA students in the Diego Rivera Gallery. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. Walter and McBea Galleries. 800 Chestnut St. Info: 749-4545.

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FALCON STUDIOS

Gina Graziano grinds out the tunes at Hotel Utah as part of DivaBands (Tuesday, August 28), the showcase inspired by Sarah McLachlan's hugely successful Lilith Fair tour. \$5, 8:30pm. 500 Fourth St. (at Bryant). Info: 546-6300; www.divabands.com; www.hotelutahsaloon.com



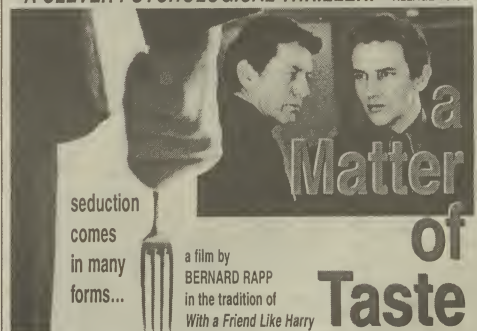
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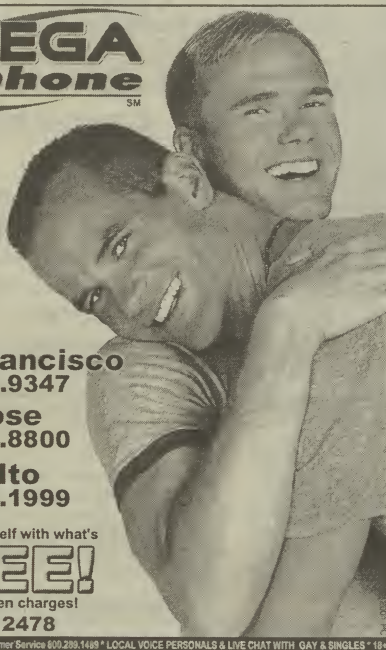
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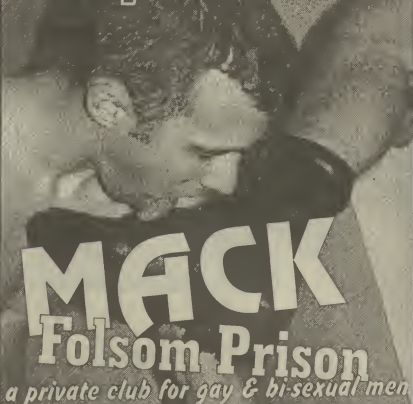
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Drummer contest reborn in Seattle

by Mister Marcus

The image is one you know well, because the official flag of the City and County of San Francisco depicts a Phoenix bird rising from the fire that devastated the City in 1906. That same image could well apply to what happened in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood last weekend, as the Northwest Drummer region made a splashy rebirth into the psyches of that region's leather community after an absence of almost eight years.

The contestants for this inaugural competition all came from the Seattle area, but when word gets out about the amazing contest and show held last Saturday night, August 18, at Neighbors nightclub — and it won't take long, because the event was witnessed by a record crowd — the leather/SM people of Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Alaska will no doubt rush to join the party next time around.

A bit of background: In 1994, Mark Colter was a contestant in the International Drummer Boy competition held in San Francisco. When all the votes were counted on that occasion, Keith Hunt, Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer, won the Mister title, and Mark, who hails from the Northwest Drummer Region, was chosen the International Drummer Boy. Mr. Colter is no longer a boy. He's now the successful — and handsome — regional sponsor of the newly reinstated Northwest Drummer Region, and last Saturday he managed to pull together one of the most astounding regional contests of this season.

The production, the contestants, and the fantasies made me think of the early days of the Drummer contests, when the fantasies performed by contestants were truly leather kink, SMD, raunch and erotica with panache.

Three men competed in Seattle — Louis Kahn, Gene Romaine and Michael Witte — and two boys — Boy Mark Nunley and Boy David Prichard).

I was honored to join the judging panel with Head Judge Don Bastian, Aubrey Hart Sparks, Allena Gabosch, Tony Frazier, Billy Lane and Richie Black. Alas, International Mr. Drummer Daniel Clark could not be present, as he was attending the Great Lakes Regional Drummer that same night to pass his sash to a successor.

The contest in Seattle sped right along with the skillful emceeing and maneuvering of former Int'l. Mr. Drummer Fraser Picard, who gets better and better with each outing. His unique sense of humor was not lost on the enthusiastic audience. An emcee's dreaded task is to "stretch" while scheduled action onstage is pulled together, and Mr. Picard managed to do it with aplomb.

There's something about the flair for showmanship that exists only in Seattle. There was no disco diva to entertain, or some glamorous local pantomime entertainer. Instead, one of Seattle's most innovative groups by the name of the VisQueens brought down the



Mr. Northwest Drummer 2001 Gene Romaine, right, and Northwest Drummer Boy 2001 Mark Nunley, both of Seattle, Washington, were chosen in Seattle last Saturday to represent the newly reinstated Northwest Region at the Int'l. Mr. Drummer finals in Florida in October.

house with their intricate chorus line dancing and campy drag outfits — each with a full beard and/or moustache. It reminded me of the Corps de Ballet that wrecked audiences in the Men Behind Bars shows staged in San Francisco long ago.

There were lots of raffles and an auction for a Violet Wand set that actually glows orange and a tribute was paid to Al D. Sowers, who was once one of

the Northwest Drummer Men and highly respected in Seattle and the Northwest as well.

It was also announced that the Pride Foundation had established a leather scholarship fund to further ease finances for scholars to further their education in the areas of human sexuality. You'll be hearing a lot more about this leather scholarship fund in the future, of that, I am sure.

Yes, it was the return of erotica big time with a sensational suspension fantasy, something I've not seen in a Drummer competition for over a decade. Boy David enlisted the hyper-masculine butchness of former Mr. Washington State Vince Edd to perform a fantasy that entailed suspension from the ceiling of Neighbors. The rope work was swift and the fantasy brought down the house (not quite literally).

Later, this Drummer competition featured a finale of sorts with all the contestants taking part in a fantasy that centered around the Brad Pitt *Fight Club* movie. Int'l. Drummer Boy Richie Black was punched around the stage, then trussed up and suspended while fire play and hot wax were employed to enhance the whole thing. It was Drummer all the way in Seattle last Saturday night.

The whole thing lasted only three hours, but everyone wanted it to go on forever. No such luck.

The tally people quickly finished the scoring and the results: Mr. Northwest Drummer 2001 is Gene Romaine, and the Northwest Drummer Boy 2001 is Mark Nunley. Both are residents of Seattle. The first runner-up was Mike Witte. Boy David was the runner-up in his category.

The winners received a standing ovation; scores of cameras flashed to record the moment. Accolades were heaped on Mark Colter from IMD, Inc., producer Mike Zuhl, International Mr. Deaf Leather Alan Spo, and other members of the audience.

Yes, Drummer is back on track in the Northwest region and it couldn't have happened in a better place.

Flag flap

Do we really need to have drama and trauma over flying a flag in the Castro? Does it have to happen? The problem is, no one really knows who has the authority to say what goes and what does not go on the flagpole in Harvey Milk Plaza, home of the giant Gay Pride Flag.

The leather community would like to have the Leather Pride Flag flying from that pole during Leather Pride Week 2001, which runs from Sunday, September 23-30. Wouldn't you know, though, there are those who oppose this action. And so the matter causes drama. A giant Leather Pride Flag will cost some \$1,800 to construct, and a planned benefit to raise the money, is in limbo until the situation is resolved. It makes one wonder how anything gets done in this community. One flag, one week. I don't understand why it has to be problematic, but there it is. Stay tuned. ▼

POLKSTRASSE

Sidewalks of SF

by Sweet Lips

The Pine Street Volunteers present the 14th annual Sidewalk Sale to benefit the AIDS Emergency Penny Fund on Sat.-Sun., August 25-26 (weather permitting), 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at the corner of Pine and Leavenworth Streets.

Refreshingly, all money raised goes directly to the Fund. Look for great bargains on books, tapes, CDs, artwork, plants, furniture, houseware, jewelry, electronics, antiques and much more.

Donations are accepted the

day of the sale, or call David at 775-9145. No clothes, please! Bring your penny collection for our famous big jar! Visa welcome.

Dani Jerome is now at the Gangway every Thurs. & Fri. from 6 a.m.-Noon. Drop in and have a Nooner.

And at the Club Rendez-Vous: Tonight

(Aug. 23): The Birth of Tish Crabb, candidate for Grand Duchess. Open show hosted by Tiger Lily. Beach theme with the

Malibu boys.

Also at Club R-V: Fri., Aug. 24:

Ann's AIDS Walk appreciation party, 5-7 p.m. 'Til Friday, theme

"Too Darn Hot," 10:30 p.m. and Midnight. Sat., Aug. 25: Brad Spankle

party, candidate for Grand Duke. Sat., Sept. 1: Carlotta,

candidate for Grand Duchess. Coming to

Shore with the Cabana Boys show, 8 p.m. Lips ahoy! Sun., Sept. 2: Benefit for the Heart Walk with Billie and Victor, 1-6 p.m. ▼

Cocktail Hour

Out There

◀ page 26

ed, I can only wish them, and the Vice President, much pleasure in their delusions."

We've never been big fans of Koestenbaum's meandering book, full of its picaresque opera trivia — but then, we're not opera queens. Thumbing through the new edition, we did enjoy his musings on what opera and pornography share in common — mostly, a bad reputation. Since we happen to edit both porn and opera columns, we have to second the emotion. Sometimes we find ourselves forgetting which is which.

RIP Rimmer

Let us pause briefly to remember **Robert H. Rimmer**, free-love advocate and author of *The Harrad Experiment* (1966), who passed away last week. In that novel, college co-eds are willing guinea pigs in a titillating study of human sexual relations. We remember getting turned on by it as puppies.

Rimmer wasn't gay, but his interest in open relationships made him sort of a visionary. He said to *Psychology Today* in 1997: "I feel that ultimately, monogamous marriage will not be the only legal, sanctioned form of marriage. There will be socially ap-



Author Robert H. Rimmer in 1999

proved group marriages, bigamous marriages, and open-end marriages in which each partner has a relationship outside the marriage."

The wire obituary reminds us that *Harrad* was made into a movie in 1973 and starred a young **Don Johnson** — to which we say, that's better than an old Don Johnson!

Blame Canada

On a recent shuttle to LA, sculptor/filmmaker **U.B. Morgan** was flipping through the United Airlines *Hemispheres* flight rag, and noticed the caption for a photograph of the Art

Gallery of Ontario, where museum visitors were viewing the works of "Canadian sculptor **Henry Moore**." Misplaced nationalism, perhaps?

Airline magazines that aspire to be art journals! And gay magazines that aspire to be airline magazines! What a world.

The A-word

Now playing at Bay Area theatres: *America's Sweethearts*, *American Outlaws*, *American Pie 2*, *American Rhapsody*. Is it any wonder that the rest of the world thinks we're self-absorbed and isolationist? What's even worse is the unexamined notion that America = USA. May we remind Hollywood that the **Americas** cover a vast territory from the Yukon to the Falklands?

Judging from its press materials, a movie opening Friday called *Tortilla Soup* seems rather like a Latin-American remake of **Ang Lee's Eat Drink Man Woman**, part of an emerging subgenre of culinary-based cinema (supply your own example here). OT is intrigued by one of *Tortilla's* featured players: none other than the aging sex symbol **Raquel Welch**, as Hortensia, "a flamboyant and flirtatious grandmother" hot for the family patriarch. We were tempted, briefly, to attend the screening, if only to see whether or not Raquel is still a hot — if geriatric — tamale! ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Friday, August 24

Bob Dern presents "Dinner Dates With the Boys" \$7 beer/soda bust benefit at Daddy's tonight from 2000-2300 to benefit the AEF and Leather Archives & Museum with entertainment, auction and madness. Bid on a boy and help the cause!

Constantines MC beer/soda bust for \$7 up at the Russian River Eagle from 1800-2200, with raffles, door prizes and "Jake-azine" madness.

Dinner for Charity by Emperor Tom and Empress Chablis at Harvey's SoMa from 1800-2300 with two shows. Info: 922-0422.

Saturday, August 25

Lost in Long Beach. Drop in to Pistons where "Leather Fantasies" winners will be interviewed to become Southern California Mr. Drummer or Drummer Boy and compete in Florida in October. Mark Malan is the producer, so you know it will be hot!

Sunday, August 26

Golden Gate Guards MC are having yet another beer/soda bust from 1600-2000 at the Lone Star. Check it out.

Weekend August 29-Sep 2

Megatrash 4 in Amsterdam. Several of our gang are there already for the (their words) "five days of Sodom & Gomorrah," with a marathon of debauchery, sex, play parties, dancing and a fetish fantasy weekend. For more info, click on www.clubtrash.com.

Thursday, August 30

Meet & Greet Dockmaster Joe and Dock Foreman Stuart at the Loading Dock at an "outreach" event by both to launch their commitment to community involvement; the beer bust is to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund. See you there?

August 31-September 3

Inaugural of the new Ms. World Contest in Dallas, Texas this weekend. Almost sold out! Cheap hotel rates and the usual suspects will be there to witness the launch of "a different kind of contest for a different kind of woman."

Satyr MC Badger Flat run in the Southland. If you were into biker stuff, you'd know about this one already.

San Diego LeatherFest XI, but this time it's in Palm Springs. The usual fare for a weekend of this type: play parties, demos, workshops, fun, and games. Need more info? Click on: www.leather-fest.com.

Sunday, September 2

SF Leather Daddy's Boy XIX gets chosen today at the Eagle beer/soda bust for \$8 with food and entertainment. Bob Dern passes the sash to a successor. More on this one next week, but apps are available now at Daddy's, Mister S, and the Loading Dock. For Info: www.sfbob.com.

Weekend September 7-9

Promethean Guard weekend in Asbury Park, NJ, with the Mr. New Jersey Leather contest. Russian River Jazz Festival in Guerneville.

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August 22nd

BAR TALK

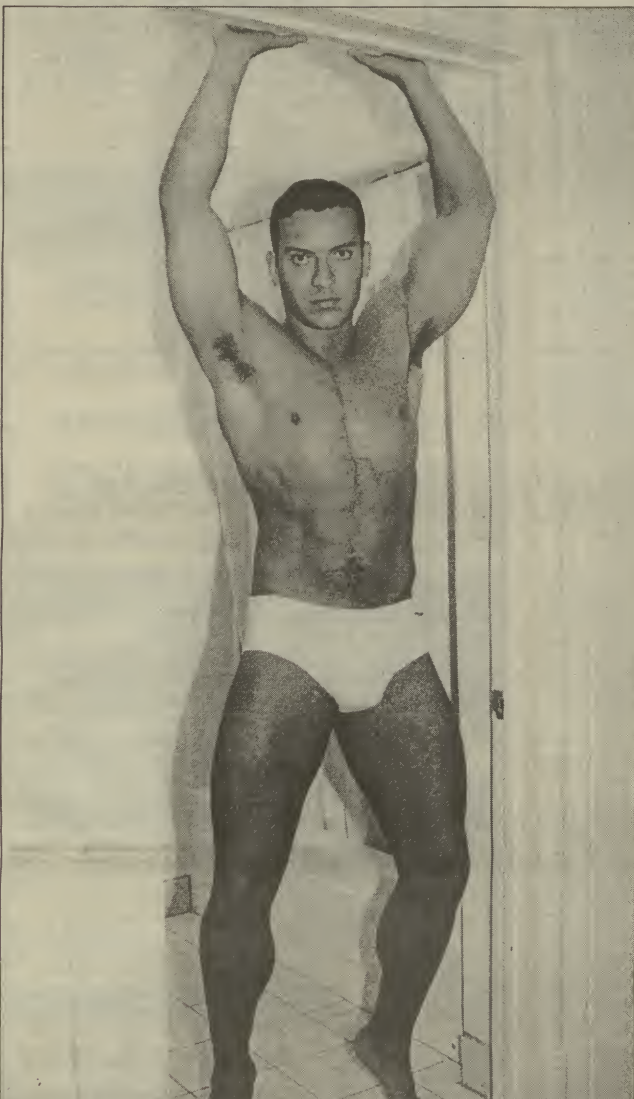


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- ☐ Parting Glances
☐ Seeking Relationship
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☐ Lesbian
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☐ Others

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
 Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

PARTING GLANCES

Last Thursday Morning- July 12. Where: Sanchez and 18th street. You: blond man. Me: tall, good build, WM, glasses. We spoke in front of your house. Let's talk again. ☎ 71478

Coliseum Airport Bart From Powell street. Sunday, July 8, 10pm. Sat behind you. You spoke on disembarking, gray sweater. Me: motorcycle jacket. Wanna connect on same level? ☎ 71479

N'Touch Sun 7/15 You: Slim Asian N w/glasses and little stache & goat, dancing w/friends. Me: tank top, GWM, playing pool. I like the way you move. You smiled back. Let's meet! ☎ 71508

Alan With Two Great Danes I met you July 5th @ 12th Howard getting coffee. You caught me staring when you walked away. Been back looking for those blue eyes. Me 6'2", 180lbs. Tattoos. ☎ 71509

Asian, Black Gap T-Shirt N'Touch Then @ Universe (7/14). Asked you to dance, but you were w/friend. Me: tall, blond, gray sleeveless t-shirt. Would like to meet and get to know you. You're cute! ☎ 71510

Ron, Club Asia Pride Week 6/22 You: White with gray shirt. Me: Asian with black tie shirt. We chat about Bangkok. Please call, I would love to see you again. ☎ 71511

AIDS Walk: Cute In Bof A Shirt You were with Asian friend in Schwab shirt, I was sitting nearby on grass. We exchanged glances and smiles more than a few times. Let's talk. ☎ 71512

Sexy Korean Bi-Stud Boy-Man You're in my dreams, you're in my prayers. Hang in there, Sean. Many love you. Be strong! ☎ 71529

Elevator Going Down On July 24 in my Van Ness Ave apartment building. You with a neat beard, me with a moustache. Sorry I didn't speak up. ☎ 71530

Peet's At Battery Appx 8am About once a week we say good morning. You- grey hair, slim, handsome with winning smile. Me grey hair, tan, blue eyes, handsome. Possibly coffee together or more? ☎ 71531

Monogamous Muscular Asian Seeks GM, 40-55, HIV-neg, with sensitive nips for exclusive mutual titplay & body worship in S.F. I'm 5'7", 150#, 40c, 30w, HIV-neg. NS, ND, no anal. ☎ 71550

Muni Early Eve 8/2 Castro Stop Me: WM, black pullover, brown hair, earrings with tall white guy in black cap. You: BM in blue jacket. You smiled, I was shy. Coffee? Talk? Sex? Marriage? ☎ 71566

On The 35 Eureka Bus 7pm Sat 11 August. Young Asian? Dressed in white med length pants. Me older White, in bicycle clothing seated across you. Exchanged glances. You got off at 24th street. Would like to meet you. ☎ 71567

Spikes Sunday August 5 Noonish You: tall dark with goatee. Me: tall with green glasses. We talked about your golden while, petting my collie. You were having coffee w/ friend outside. Coffee sometimes? ☎ 71568

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

ISO Regular Suck Buddy WM 5'10", 170#, 7" uncult, HIV-, disease free, non smoker, ISO White, Latino, Asian, North Bay a plus. ☎ 71484

Regular Guy Seeks Friend & More 5'9", 145# swimmers build, nice chest wash brd, abs, tan, handsome very fit LTR, weekend get togethers in S.F. HIV- must be handsome & in great shape. ☎ 71532

Seeking Life Partner Professional Mediterranean man, 33, 6', 150, blk, brn secks mature monogamous mate. Romantic, well travelled and communicative, seeking same. Let's build a life together. N/S, N/D/ no bar scene. ☎ 71480

It Just Might Work Me: GLM HIV+ dark skin/ eyes/hair. I'm 33, 165#, 5'8" bottom wanted: GWM between 35-45 hairy. No drugs. Maybe long term relationship. ☎ 71481

U/C Boy To Train Not Tame Demanding dad will train not tame serious submissive U/C man boy(s) your fantasies become our reality. Thru submissive become proud-loyal-ly alive. Serious/only. U/C a must. ☎ 71482

Find Latin Man Handsome Mediterranean looking 49, 5'7", 155 an in great shape. Artists, fun loving celebrates life. HIV+, sensual good kisser, vers/bottom. Theater, movies, outdoors, lets dine an more. ☎ 71483

Lonely Cute 37 Yrs. Old Latin Ht: 5'07 wt: 155, brn skin rough look, but sweet versatile. Looking 4 GWM/ GLM/ GAM, slim, short small build. smooth, size no important. If interested call please. ☎ 71485

Chubby Chaser Alert Hot fem bottom pussy boy, young 48 Caucasian- Latin musician in committed relationship with understanding woman. ISO, hot dominant HIV-top, under 40 for possible LTR. ☎ 71486

Fun-Loving GAM ISO Latino/Asian For friendship, sex, possibly more! Prefer skinny to slim, age not important. I'm 5'7", 129, easy going with a big heart. Love foreplay, kissing, cuddling & sensual touch. ☎ 71487

Horny Old Fart Seeks Similar SF GWM 65, 6, 176 HIV- Into J/O, nips, cock sucking and rimming seeks similar in the City. Prefer ht, wt, at least, somewhat proportional. ☎ 71513

Life Is Very Short I Am Very Hungry & for true relationship. Me: 40yrs old, 5'8", 145# attractive slim, athletic, Japanese seeks SGWM 45-55yrs old- must be honest sincere. Lots of humor for ltr/monogamous-oriented. You little chubby. Serious only. ☎ 71514

Looking For A Friend Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for a companion in the city, to do things with. Enjoy movies, hiking, classical music, computers, dining out and your interests. ☎ 71515

Poz Bottom For 40+ Leather Top Seeking ltr with in-shape leather top/daddy who loves cockworship, as-play, B&D, and taking care of his good boy. I'm 48, 6', 145, br/br, smooth, 100% bottom, HIV+. ☎ 71516

Sexy GWM Masculine Top 48 6' 165lbs, passionate, friendly & educ. HIV+ work-out, ISO any race 28-48 bottom HIV+, work-out body, genuine, fun-loving NS, ND, no bar scene, let's talk. ☎ 71533

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans Wanted by HIV+, blond/blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71534

Yogi Seeks Boo Boo GWM, 5'11", 240#, smarter than the average bear. Seeks cub to share hibernation and picnic baskets. ☎ 71571

Cuddly Fit Guy Sks Smart Asian I'm 48, 6', 160, athletic, attractive HIV+/healthy, professional seeking trim, fit, Asian for dating. You're smart, happy, independent, and love to cuddle & kiss. ☎ 71535

I Love Older GWM Attractive Asian male 50 5'8", 155# affectionate and caring, seeks clean shaven GWM over 55 for ltr. We are healthy and HIV-, we both need love and special person to share with. P/s call. ☎ 71536

Need Strictly Top E/S Bay Playmate Me: Handsome Healthy Mid-age Asian Bottom, fine shape, 5'7"; You: Clean Top, N/D, no communicable disease, any race/age, have big able tool eager to pump me deep. ☎ 71551

GBM Seeks GW Or Bi WM HIV ng very straight acting 46 look early 30's new to area, outgoing, down to earth, very sociable, in shape, not into the bar scene seeks same. Also very handsome. ☎ 71552

Tall Wants Short GWM 57- 6'4", 260 HIV- top looking for GWM bottom 40+ prefer 5'5", 5'8" but open-smoke/aroma++. Call ☎ 71553

Oral Top Needed! For very bi curious oral wannabe bottom. Your under 40, smooth, clean shaven w/a negative gentle patient understanding, submissive, dress in drag, a huge+ looking long term. ☎ 71554

Good Catch - Partner and Friend Seeking both. Me: GBM, 50, top, educated, professional, and enjoy many interests. You: GWM, 50-60, educated, bottom, and easygoing. Let's talk, have dinner, drinks, smoke a little, converse, and have good sex (maybe not all the same evening). Please be beefy, beardless, single. Sensitive/responsive nips a big plus. P/s call ☎ 71555

~Young Cute Russian~ Looking for another European, Russian or cultured American to love and be loved. I have various interests. I am healthy and sexy. You be same and no older than 40. ☎ 71556

HIV+ GLM Seeking HIV+ GWM 41yo 5'10", 155 attractive healthy in shape funny romantic easy going top/versatile. Movies dancing, playing tennis, you similar 35-45 bottom/versatile proportionate, no drugs, smoke, alcohol. ☎ 71569

Any Tall Guys Outthere? Looking to date? I am young looking 43 yr. old, GWM living in SF and tall guys make my day. You be 5'10" and up GWM into fun & romance. ☎ 71570

~Redhead~ SWM 40, 5'10", 170, Santa Rosa native, ex-navy. Enjoys talk radio, exercise & the outdoors. Seeks female. ☎ 71572

SEEKING ADVENTURE

I Want To Get Laid Tall, GWM, 40's, bi/bl, bottom ISO hung top into anal play, nipples, and mutual b/s. Race and age build unimportant. Tall, hairy, uncult++. No b/s. ☎ 71488

The Glamorous Life Gym fit young man in need of generous gentleman who can show me the good life. ☎ 71489

Tall Cute Blond Artist Type needs support from generous man to get through some tough times. ☎ 71490

Top Seeks Latin Bottom Built, trim, 6' 165lb, top. Athletic, healthy, HIV+, muscular top 47yo. seeks trim, fit Latin bottom for cuddling and steady sex. ☎ 71491

East Bay Hot Latin Looking for mature, sincere males for good times. Am mature, 5'8", 155, versatile, HIV+, as you must be. Your age/race/looks not important. ☎ 71492

Make Me Your Bitch WM 40, ISO macho man 325+ # tatts+ very fat cock to strip me naked and have rough and hard sex, verbal abuse ex-con A+. ☎ 71493

Anonymous Deep Throat Head Bi WM HIV- 40s dominant very masculine likes getting off down an expert deep throat in dark private places if your HIV- submissive in shape and hungry. ☎ 71494

Beautiful Material Boy! Intelligent, handsome, 29yo GWM w/hot body and class ISO wealthy, HIV- stud who is generous. I love shopping, travel, night life, conversation, the arts, hot sex, and valuable gifts. Serious inquiries only. ☎ 71495

Ride On My Bushy Mustache Feel my tongue up your hot butt. Me: 6', 170, gym toned, brn, blu 42. You: hot and ready. ☎ 71505

Hairy? Muscular? Celtic?

Mature SF GWM with oral talents to please seeks masculine man of Celtic background 30+ (straight, married preferred) who enjoys kicking back for admiration and servicing. ☎ 71496

Brian Patrick Carmichael
Makes me hot. If you have his look/midsize, husky build, moustache, tell this funny, freaky Black daddy what turns you on. ☎ 71497

Be My Sweet Hairy Daddy
GWM, 42, 180#, romantic, 7" uncult, hairy, seeks extremely hairy daddy types 40-60 for romance and fun. Must be outgoing and affectionate. ☎ 71498

Seeking Another Healthy Libido
SPGWM, 42, 177#, athletic, cute, hairy, br/br, clean, HIV-neg, strong libido, romantic & very horny, sks companion, WM, attractive, clean, hung & HIV-neg for blow & rim regularly in S.F. ☎ 71499

Butt Play For You
I want to look at, touch, squeeze, massage, tickle, spank, eat, pube & screw your butt. Me: GWM, 45, 6'5", 300lbs. You: GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim, nice buns. ☎ 71500

I Want To Watch
A younger guy getting stripped, humiliated, abused, or brutally f---d. I'm 48, trim, verbal, 5'10", 155, ☎ 71501.

Spread Your Cheeks
E.Bay GWM, 52, ISO Indian or Iranian with hairy buns to be rimmed. No recp. No perfumes. Married, ok. Sit on my face. 25-40yr. ☎ 71502

Offering Virgin Bottom
To smooth clean shaven Asian under 40 who's patient gentle experienced teacher to make me cry with pleasure W/B/M, needs slow pumping leading to hard pounding. Give it to me. ☎ 71503

2 Pnp Butch Men Need 3rd
Two hot oversexed men, 50/ versatile and 57, ex-marine top need versatile or top for weekend pnp. sessions! ☎ 71504

Fisting Hands n' Butts
Enjoy playing with an ass that takes my fingers and hands or toys, your place anytime. ☎ 71517

2 Hot Party & Play Sex Pigs...
Looking for vers. or top sex pig to join 2 oversexed men. GWM 50 versatile and 57", GLM top for long, hot pnp weekends. Hot cocksuckers A+. ☎ 71523

Shut Up And Ride
WM 36 5'10", 195lb blonde/blue muscle guy wants good-looking masculine men to screw or screw me-call anytime. ☎ 71538

Big Man- Big Dick- Great Ass
ISO smaller men with mucho cock to fuck my hungry hole. Any race-age. Safe only. ☎ 71518

Looking For Hairy, Uncult Men
Over 50 to suck off in my Nae Nae Valley flat. Uncult only. I'm 48, ok to look at, HIV neg. Where are you guys? Bi ask. Straight ask. Call me. Very discreet. ☎ 71519

Weightlifting Nude
Have bench, barbells, dumbbells. Strip down, workout. Am 48, 5'9", 190#. You can participate or just watch me workout. ☎ 71520

Hot White Bottom Wanted By 9"
Big dick White top I'm 57yrs old 6'0", 160lbs. drk brn hair brn eyes, wear glasses. Big 9" dick love to fuck White guys under 40. ☎ 71521

Senior Seeking Service
On your knees, suck dad's cock, twist his nipples. Mine is 7" uncult, ready for action. What's yours like? Thick & cut? I'm interested. ☎ 71522

Fucking Only
Black male, great body, uncult cock, seeks muscular masculine bottom to fuck on Friday or Saturday nights. 5'10", 180, dark, smooth, muscular, hung & HIV-neg, HIV+, 43, no drugs. ☎ 71537

Seeking Asian Top
Me 41, 6.1 1/2 GWM, slender, seeks Asian top for fun & friendship. ☎ 71539

Small Tools & Admirers
Do you prefer guys like yourself who are not hung? Social mixer being planned in San Francisco for men under 6' & admirers. S 71540

Big 9" Cock Needs Hot White Butt
To fuck. Me 57 yrs old 6'0", 160lbs drk brw hair brn eyes glasses seek hot White muscle men under 40 who want to be fucked. ☎ 71541

Dominant Affectionate Seniors
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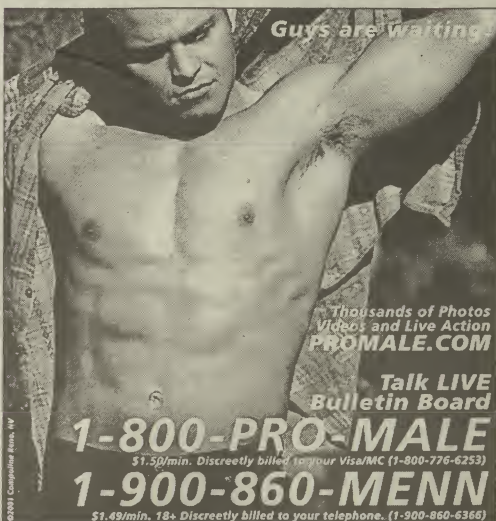
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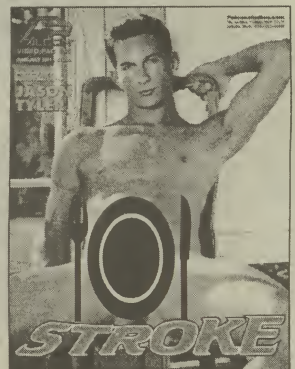
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Marilyn redux

by Robert Julian

My Story by Marilyn Monroe,
Cooper Square Press, \$22.95

If *My Story* seems familiar to some readers, it's probably because this is a reissue of a book initially released in 1974. The autobiography is of questionable authenticity. It was allegedly written by Monroe with the help of novelist/screenwriter Ben Hecht and given to her business partner, Milton Greene, in the mid-1950s. At that time, Monroe and New York photographer Greene were in partnership to produce films for Monroe. For a few years, Greene was her trusted advisor and unwitting co-conspirator.

It's impossible to determine authenticity in this case, but the narrative voice of *My Story* could be Monroe's. It reflects a seemingly bottomless well of personal insecurities and low self-esteem. There is a certain childlike naïveté to the author's observations that is also consistent with Monroe's *modus operandi* during her brief 36 years on this planet. *My Story* begins with Monroe's early years in orphanages and her mother's chronic mental illness. It recounts the insecurities of a child without a home or a father, her first marriage, and her slow climb up the

ladder of success. The book stops abruptly in the middle of Monroe's account of her 1953 trip to entertain American troops in Korea while honeymooning with husband number two, Joe DiMaggio. The current edition opens with a ridiculous new introduction by author Andrea Dworkin which readers will do well to skip.

My Story is a curiosity, one that provokes more questions than it answers. But one passage in particular attests to authenticity. Monroe says, "I knew I belonged to the Public and to the world, not because I was talented or even beautiful but because I had never belonged to anything or anyone else. The Public was the only family, the only Price Charming and the only home I had ever dreamed of." This same sentiment is echoed in Arthur Miller's autobiography, *Timebends*. Writing many years after the first release of *My Story*, Miller recounts the fact that, de-



spite all Monroe's suicide attempts and pathological inability to arrive at a party — or a movie set — on time, he never saw her unhappy in a crowd.

Actress, icon, myth — Monroe remains an eternal mystery, even to those who knew her best. *My Story* is simply another piece in a puzzle that will never be solved. ▼

Bellicose blasts

by Jason Serinus

Tchaikovsky 1812 Overture
Erich Kunzel, conductor
Cincinnati Pops Orchestra
Telarc

For those who can't get enough of fireworks, Telarc's new Tchaikovsky recording employs every possible digital technological advance to showcase the composer's pyrotechnic 1812 Overture, as well as other assorted marches, dances and operatic diversions. Though the interpretations fall short of the mark, the recording could blast you so far out of your seat that coming back to Earth may carry greater import than musical values.

First, some history. Tchaikovsky wrote the 1812 to celebrate the consecration of the Moscow Cathedral of Christ the Redeemer, built to commemorate the 1812 liberation of the Russians from Napoleon's forces. The score included, in various versions, massive strings and brass, choirs of children and adults, live cannon and peeling bells. While the actual premiere took place in a concert hall, Telarc recreates the experience as though performed on a battlefield.

The label has issued the recording in several versions. The one auditioned for this review, in two-channel stereo, employs Sony's latest DSD (Direct Stream



Digital) recording technology to achieve greater veracity of sound. Also available is a hybrid multi-channel SACD (Super Audio CD), playable on all players, which promises even greater realism when heard through state-of-the-art SACD multi-channel players. A multi-channel DVD-Audio disc, capable of delivering 24 bit/96 khz sound, is also in the works.

Telarc devotes 5 1/2 pages of liner notes to expounding on the disc's sound effects, concluding with the warning, "Please don't break anything or hurt yourself playing the 1812! Use caution and good sense in setting the playback volume." This is sheer hype. While the prospect of Civil War-era cannons shooting at you from all sides may strike you as a curious enticement for purchase, rest assured that, at least in the two-channel version where the cannons merely shoot at you from various positions across an ex-

tremely wide soundstage, your hearing does not risk impairment.

Alas, Telarc has made two unfortunate choices. By setting the orchestra way back in an over-reverberant soundstage, they greatly distance the listener from the music, losing vital color and impact. And, in Erich Kunzel, they offer a conductor whose dutiful execution frequently fails to illuminate the music's poetry.

Poetry in the 1812, you may ask? Yes. Listen instead to the CD of the famed 1958 Mercury Living Presence analog recording with Antal Dorati and assorted Minneapolis forces (*sans chorus*). Dorati's strings sing, touching the heart with their memories of countless Russians suffering under siege; his tempo transitions are arresting. The exciting recording, which locates the orchestra up-front and direct, further heightens the conductor's achievement, enabling the music to build to such a peak that the stunning gunfire and loud peel of bells seems almost inevitable. The same can be said of Dorati's *Capriccio Italien*, also performed by Kunzel.

If you want to terrify the neighbor's dog, show off your sound system as though it were evidence of sexual potency, and take a romp through Tchaikovsky's gayer fare, Telarc's disc will fill the bill. Musically, the Mercury outing remains unsurpassed. ▼

Written on Wind

◀ page 37

won an Oscar for her role and certainly deserved it for managing to make Marylee at once sexy, repulsive, and poignant. Few other actors could pull off her scene alone at the river, where

she's tormented by childhood memories — brazenly rendered in overdub — of her and Mitch declaring undying love. Bacall and Hudson give solid and credible performances, but their earnestness and upright morality make them less interesting than the other two, and to some extent compromise the film. Mitch and

Lucy's dilemmas have easy solutions — they just have to find a way to get together. Kyle and Marylee's problems are overwhelming and cannot be resolved without catastrophe. It's their story that Sirk — and the audience — finds most engaging, and that accounts for much of the film's lasting appeal. ▼

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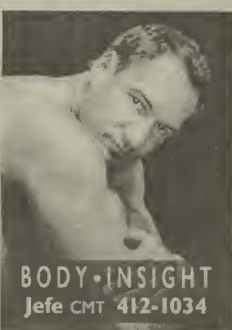
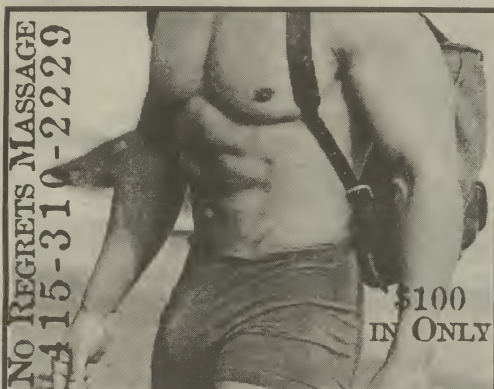
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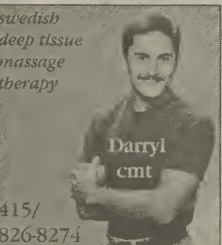
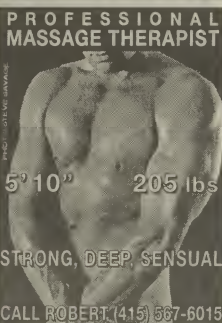
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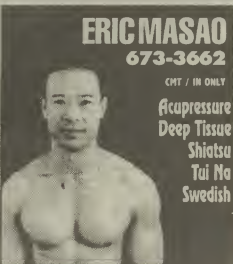
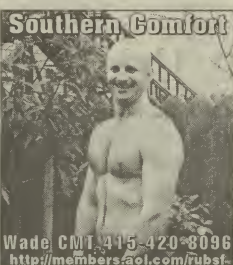
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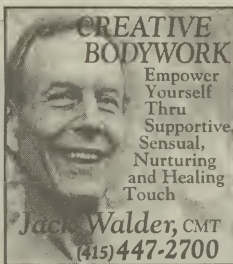
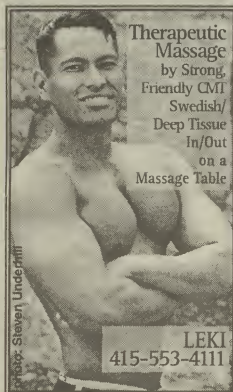
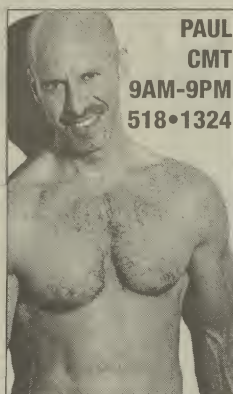
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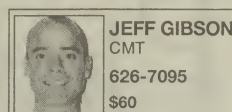
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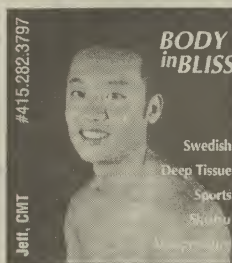
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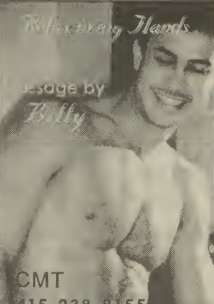
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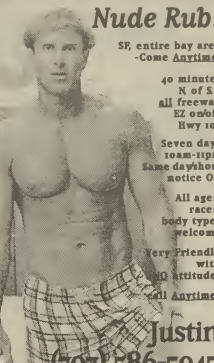
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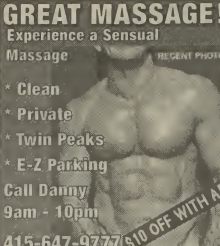
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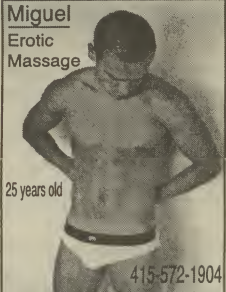
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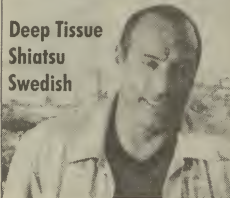


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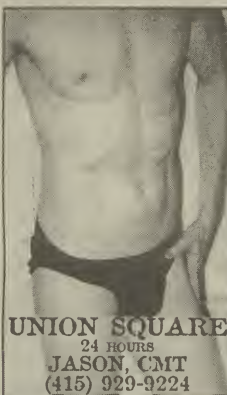
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